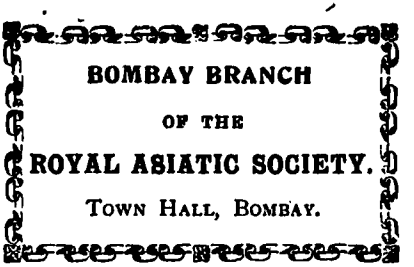
REPORT ON THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1863 - 64

00133534

BBRAS



Digitized with financial assistance from
Government of Maharashtra
on 01 February, 2020

REPORT

OF THE

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

FOR THE

YEAR 1863-64.

PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON THE 30TH SEPTEMBER 1864.

Bombay:

PRINTED FOR THE CHAMBER BY

PEARSE AND SORABJEE,

AT THE "MERCANTILE PRESS."

1865.

00133534

CONTENTS.

	Page
Members, &c. of the Chamber	i
Rules and Regulations of the Chamber	iii
Tonnage Scale at Bombay	vii
Rules and Regulations for Measurement by Callipers, upon shipments to Great Britain of Cotton, &c. from Bombay	xii
General Rates of Commission	xiv
Ship Freight Inwards	xvi
General Meetings of the Chamber in 1863-64	xvii

ANNUAL REPORT of the Chamber	1
Inefficient Working of the G. I. P. Railway	4
Railway Terminus accommodation	7
The Post Office	7
Electric Telegraph	8
Cotton Cultivation	9
Cotton Adulteration	10
Custom House Details	11
Fire Engine Establishments	12
Wagers' Bill	13
Gold Currency	13
Funds of the Chamber	14
Appendices	17

CONTENTS OF APPENDICES.

Page

A.—RAILWAY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

From Chairman of the Chamber, to Chief Secretary to Government, complaining of unsatisfactory Traffic Arrangements.. 17
From Secretary to Government to Chairman of the Chamber in reply 18
Resolution of the Chamber 21

B.—RAILWAY TERMINUS ACCOMMODATION.

From Secretary to Government to Chairman of Chamber forwarding copy of Resolution 22
Memorandum 22
From Secretary to Government, forwarding copy of Government Resolutions relating to the Passenger Terminus of the G. I. P. Railway 23
From the Secretary to Chamber to the Chief Secretary to Government, on the subject of Railway Terminus Accommodation 24
From Secretary to Government, to Secretary of Chamber in reply 24
From Secretary to Chamber, to Secretary to Government, handing copy of Resolution to Government, and Report of the Sub-Committee on Railway Terminus Accommodation .. 25
Resolution of Chamber 25
Report of the Sub-Committee 26
Table showing the times at which the Gate at the level crossing on the G. I. P. Railway at Clare Bunder, was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m., from the 25th November, to 1st December 1863. 32
Ditto at Carnac Bunder, from 23rd to 28th November, 1863 35

C.—OVERLAND MAIL COMMUNICATION.

From Post Master General to Secretary to Chamber, enclosing Memo. of the days and hours of the departure of the English and China Mail Steamers, for the year 1864 38

Page

Extracts from Letter from Superintendent of P. and O. Co., to the Post Master General 40
Postal Notice 40
From Secretary to Chamber to Post Master General in reply 41
From Secretary to Chamber, to Post Master General, calling attention to the inconvenience to the public in consequence of Post Office Notices being inserted only in the Government Gazette 41
From Post Master General to Secretary to Chamber, in reply 42
From Secretary to Chamber to Post Master General, calling attention to the obscurity of the wording of the Post Office Notice, regarding the closing of the Overland Mail 44
From the Post Master General to Secretary to the Chamber in reply 44

D.—ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

From Secretary to Government General Department to Secretary to Chamber of Commerce, requesting information regarding the working of the Electric Telegraph Department... 45
From Secretary to Chamber to Secretary to Government, in reply... 45
From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government to Secretary to Chamber, requesting the Chamber to support their opinion, as expressed in their reply 46
From Secretary to Madras Chamber of Commerce, to Secretary to Chamber, handing copy of letter addressed by Madras Chamber to Government of India, regarding irregularities in Telegraphic communication between Bombay and Madras... 47
From Chairman Chamber of Commerce, Madras, to Secretary to Government of India, Simla. 47
From Secretary to Government of India to Secretary of Madras Chamber in reply.. 49
From Secretary to Government of India to Director General of Telegraphs, proposing to establish local complaint offices.... 50

E.—COTTON CULTIVATION.

From Cotton Commissioner, Bombay, to Chairman of Chamber inviting communications on matters connected with Cotton interests.. 52
From Secretary to Chamber, to Cotton Commissioner in reply.. 52
From Cotton Commissioner, in reply 52
From Messrs. W. Nicol and Co., to Secretary to Chamber, regarding Experimental Cultivation in Dharwar.. .. 53

Page

From John Fleming, Esq., to Secretary to Cotton Supply Association, London 54
Extract from Letter from Messrs. Nicol, Duckworth & Co. .. 56
From William A. Kerr, Esq., to Secretary to Chamber, respecting Experimental Cultivation in Khandeish 57
From the Secretary to the Chamber in reply 57

COTTTON ADULTERATION ACT IX OF 1863.

From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government to Secretary to the Chamber.. 58
From Commissioner of Customs, to Secretary to Government.. 59
From Revenue Commissioner N. D., to Secretary to Government 61
From Revenue Commissioner S. D., to Secretary to Government, regarding Cotton Frauds 64
From Superintendant Dharwar Cotton Gin Factory, to Revenue Commissioner, S. D., Poona 68
From Secretary to Chamber, to Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, forwarding copies of Minutes 73
Minute by Messrs. Nicol & Co... 73
Minute by Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell & Co. 74
Minute by Messrs. A. H. Huschke & Co. 76
Minute by Messrs. Lawrence & Co. 76
Minute by Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart & Co. 77
Minute by Messrs. Grey & Co.. 80
Minute by Messrs. Comber & Son 82
Minute by S. Burstall & Co. 82
Minute by Robinson & Co. 82
Minute by Messrs. Macindoe, Rogers & Co. 82
Minute by Alex. C. Brice & Co... 84
From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, to Secretary to Chamber 88
From Commissioner in Sind to His Excellency the Hon'ble Sir H. B. E. Frere, K. C. B., on the appointing of Inspectors of Cotton.. 88
From Officiating Chief Secretary to Government to the Secretary to Chamber 90
From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government to Secretary to Chamber, forwarding 20 copies of Extracts on Adulteration of Cotton.. 91
Extract (paras. 1 to 21) from a letter from Inspector in Chief Cotton Department, to Government, on punishment for fraudulent and dishonest Adult ration of Cotton 91
Extract (paras. 1 to 8) of the Government reply 97
Extract from a letter from the Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department, to Government, with Appendices 100

Page

Appendix A.—Notice to Cotton shippers and dealers, ... 107
Appendix B.—Rough Estimate..... 109
Extract from Government Resolution in reply. 111
From E. W. Ravenscroft, Chief Cotton Inspector to Secretary to Chamber 112
From Secretary to Chamber to Chief Cotton Inspector, Bombay 112
Extract para 1 to 4 111
From Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department to the Secretary to Chamber 113
From Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department to the Secretary to Chamber, forwarding copy of Government Resolution No. 1833 114
From Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department to the Secretary to Chamber, forwarding copy of letter to the Secretaries of the Chambers of Commerce, Liverpool, Glasgow and Manchester, with Appendix 115
Table showing the names of the Licensed Press Companies in Bombay 119

COTTON ROBBERIES IN THE BROACH AND SURAT RIVERS.

From Chief Secretary to Government to the Secretary to Chamber 120
From Officiating Secretary to Government to the Government Solicitor, Bombay 121
From Solicitor to Government to the Chief Secretary to Government, enclosing copy of opinion of the Advocate General upon the levying a duty on the export of Cotton from Surat and Broach 121
Copy of opinion of the Advocate General on levying a fee of two annas per bale on all exports of Cotton from Surat and Broach 122
Government Resolution on ditto 123
From Police Commissioner S. D. in charge N. D., to Officiating Secretary to Government on the organization of Water Police for the Nerbudda and the Taptee.. 124
From Acting Magistrate, Tanna, to Police Commissioner N. D. 125
From Acting Magistrate of Surat, to Police Commissioner, N. D., Poona, on the organization of Water Police for the Taptee and Nerbudda 127
From J. S. Carr, Superintendent of Police, to the Magistrate of Surat 128
From Officiating Chief Secretary to Government to Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department 130

COTTON PRIZES.

From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government to Secretary to Chamber 130

Page

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay on prizes for growth of Cotton 131

F.—CUSTOMS' DUTIES.

Standing Order reducing the Import duty on Tobacco .. 133
From Commissioner of Customs, forwarding true copy of the above 135

Increase of Accommodation at the Custom House.

Extract from the proceedings of the Government of Bombay, in the Revenue Department, on Increase of Accommodation at the Custom House 133
Government Resolution on ditto 134
From Commissioner of Customs' forwarding true copy of Resolution 136
From Messrs. Souza, Pinto & Co., to Secretary to the Chamber, on landing and shipping goods 137
From Secretary to Chamber. to Messrs. Souza, Pinto & Co., in reply 137
From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary to Chamber proposing the Calcutta system of receipt being adopted.. .. 138
From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary of Chamber regarding Cheques for Customs' duties 138
From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary to Chamber forwarding a Notice 138
Notice from Commissioner of Customs stating that Customs' duties can be paid by cheques made payable to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs P. D., or bearer, and crossed "Bank of Bombay." 139
From Commissioner of Customs, to Secretary to Chamber on Harbour traffic of this Port. 139
From Secretary to Chamber to Commissioner of Customs, forwarding copy of letter from Bombay Landing and Shipping Company, Limited. 140
From Honorary Secretary Bombay Landing and Shipping Company Limited, to Secretary to Chamber 140

Landing of Bullion.

Notice from Commissioner of Customs on Landing of Bullion. 141
From Commissner of Customs forwarding true copy of the Notice 141

Trade Returns.

From Secretary to Chamber to Commissioner of Customs on the delay of the Reporter General's Department in posting up the details of imports and exports.. 142

Page

From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary to Chamber. .. 142
From Secretary to Chamber to Commissioner of Customs on delay in the Reporter General's Office.. 143
From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary to Chamber. .. 143

FEES AT ELPHINSTONE BUNDER.

From Commissioner of Customs to Secretary to Chamber forwarding tables of Fees. 144
From Secretary to Chamber to Commissioner of Customs .. 144
From W. Nicol and Co. to Secretary Chamber of Commerce—fees levied at the Elphinstone Bunder.. 145
From W. Nicol and Co. to the Commissioner of Customs—fees at Elphinstone Bunder.. 146

G.—FIRE ENGINE ESTABLISHMENT.

From H, Brooke, to the Secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of Proceedings on the subject of increasing the efficiency of the Fire Engine Establishment. 147
Proceedings of the Agents of Fire Insurance Companies..... 148
Extract from the *Bombay Gazette*, state of the Fire Engine Service of Bombay.. 148
From Chairman of Meeting of Agents for Fire Insurance Co.'s to the Hon'ble H. L. Anderson, Chief Secretary to Government.. 151
From Chief Secretary to Government to A. Grant, Esq., appointing a Committee to report on the best means of rendering the Fire Engine Establishment thoroughly efficient 153
From Chief Secretary to Government to Chairman of Meeting of Agents for Fire Insurance Companies.. 153

H.—WAGERS' BILL.

From Chief Secretary to Government to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.. 155
From Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce to Chief Secretary to Government 156
From Under-Secretary to Government to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce 157
From the Secretary to Chamber to the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce—Bill for Avoiding Wagers .. 157
From the Secretary to Chamber to the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce—copies of Minutes recorded on the subject of the Bill for Avoiding Wagers 158

Page

Minute by Messrs. W. Nicol & Co. 158
Further Minute by Messrs. W. Nicol & Co. 159
Minute by Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell & Co. 163
Minute by Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart & Co. 166
Minute by Messrs. Grey & Co, ... 168
Minute by Messrs. Macindoe, Rogers & Co. 170
Minute by H. Brooke, Esq., Firm of Alexander C. Brice & Co. 171
Minute by Messrs W. & A. Graham & Co... 172
Minute by Messrs Geo. S. King & Co... 172
Minute by Messrs Souza, Pinto & Co... 172
Minute by Messrs Cardwell, Parsons & Co.. 173
Minute by Messrs Finlay, Scott & Co... 174
Minute by Messrs Leggatt & Co... 174
Minute by Messrs Comber, Son & Co... 174
Minute by Messrs S. Burstall & Co..... 175
Minute by Messrs Killick, Nixon & Co... 175
Minute by Messrs Wallace & Co... 175
Minute by Messrs. Stoehr, Prieger & Co.. 177
Minute by Messrs. Nasmyth & Co... 177
Minute by Messrs. Lawrence & Co. 177
Minute by Messrs. A. H. Huschke & Co... 178
Minute by Messrs. Ashburner, Bell & Co. 179
Minute by Messrs. Stewart & Co.. 180
Minute by Messrs. Ralli Brothers... 181
Minute by Messrs. Fulcher, Cooper & Co... 182
Minute by Messrs. Rennie, Scovell & Co... 182
Minute by Messrs. Ewart, Latham & Co... 183

I.—GOLD CURRENCY FOR INDIA.

Minute by Mr. W. R. Cassels... 184
Do. Do. Do... 189
Minute by Mr. H. Brooke... 193
Minute by Mr. T. R. R. Davison... 199
Minute by Messrs. Souza, Pinto & Co... 200
Minute by Messrs. Stewart & Co... 200
From Secretary to Chamber, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay, forwarding Memorial from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce... 202
Memorial from Bombay Chamber of Commerce 203
From Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, to Secretary to Chamber.. 207
From Secretary to the Government of India, to the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay 207
From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, to Secretary to Chamber... 207

Page

From Officiating Under-Secretary to Government, to Secretary to Chamber 208

J.—MHYJEE FAIR.

From Under-Secretary to Government to the Secretary to Chamber 209

Extract from the proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Judicial Department, dated 29th January, 1864 .. 209

Letter from Lieut. H. Daniell, 2nd Asst. Superintendent of Police, Khandeish, dated 15th April, 1863, No. 21, to the Collector and Magistrate of Khandeish, (Report on the Mhyjee Fair, 1863.) 213

Government Resolution on report of the Mhyjee Fair, for 1863 . 221

Statement of the Funds of the Chamber, for 1863-64.. .. 224

List of Pamphlets and Papers received by the Chamber during the year 1863-64 225

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Established 22nd September 1836.

List of Members.

Messrs. Ashburner, Bell, & Co.
" Bates, (E.) & Co.
" Brice, (A. C.) & Co.
" Burstall, (S.) & Co.
" Campbell, Mitchell, & Co.
" Cama, (B. H.) & Co.
" Cardwell, Parsons, & Co.
" Classon, (H.) & Co.
" Comber, Son, & Co.
" Cornforth, (J. P.) & Co.
" Ewart, Latham, & Co.
" Finlay, Clark, & Co.
" Finlay, Scott, & Co.
" Framjee, Sands, & Co.
" Fulcher, Cooper, & Co.
" Gaddum & Co.
" Graham, (W. & A.) & Co.
" Grey & Co.
" Huschke, (A. H.) & Co.
" Killick, Nixon, & Co.
" King, (G. S.) & Co.
" Lawrence & Co.
" Leckie & Co.
" Leggatt & Co.
" Lyon, Brothers, & Co.
" Macdonald, (C.) & Co.
" Macindoe, Rogers, & Co.
" Macnee & Co.
" Martin, Young, & Co.
" Montaulard & Tallada.
" Moore, (J. S.) & Co.
" Nasmyth & Co.
" Nicol, (W.) & Co.
" Passmore & Co.
" Peel, Cassels, & Co.
" Ralli Brothers.
" Rennie, Scovell, & Co.
" Ritchie, Steuart, & Co.
Messrs. Robinson & Co.
" Roper, Price, & Co.
" Sassoon (D.) & Co.
" Siegfried & Co.
" Sigg, (J.) & Co.
" Soojawooden, Tyabjee, & Co.
" Souza, Pinto, & Co.
" Stearns, Hobart, & Co.
" Stewart, (J.) & Co.
" Stoehr, Prieger, & Co.
" Tanner, (J.) & Co.
" Volkart Brothers.
" Wadia's (J. N.) Sons & Co.
" Wallace & Co.
" Watson, Bogle, & Co.

Agra and United Service Bank.
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China.
The Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London, and China.
The Commercial Bank of India.
The Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris.
The Financial Association of India and China, Limited.
The Hindustan, China, and Japan Bank, Limited.
Manchester Cotton Company.
P. & O. S. N. Company.
The Presidency Bank, Bombay, Limited.
Royal Bank of India.
Scinde, Punjaub, and Delhi Bank Corporation.

Retiring Committee.

ANDREW GRANT, Esq., *Chairman.*

A. C. GUMPERT, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

J. L. Scott, Esq.....
Wm. Nixon, Esq.....
A. J. Hunter, Esq..... } *Members.*

Committee for 1864-65.

A. C. GUMPERT, Esq., *Chairman.*

ALEX. STEWART, Esq., *Deputy Chairman.*

A. J. Hunter, Esq.....
A. Huson, Esq. .....
H. MAXWELL, Esq..... } *Members.*

Messrs. WILLIAM NICOL & Co., *Treasurers.*

JAMES TAYLOR, Esq., *Secretary.*

MUCKOONDROW BHAWOO, *Head Clerk.*

RULES AND REGULATIONS

OF THE

BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Revised and adopted at the Annual General Meeting, held on the 19th Sept. 1851.

I. THAT the object and duties of the Chamber shall be to encourage a friendly feeling and unanimity among commercial men on all subjects involving their common good; to promote and protect the general mercantile interests of this Presidency; to collect and classify information on all matters of general commercial interest; to obtain the removal, as far as such a society can, of all acknowledged grievances affecting merchants as a body, or mercantile interests in general; to receive and decide references on matters of usage and custom in dispute, recording such decisions for future guidance; and by this, and other means, assisting to form a code of practice for simplifying and facilitating business; to communicate with the public authorities, with similar associations in other places, and with individuals, on all subjects of general mercantile interest; and to arbitrate between parties willing to refer to, and abide by, the judgment of the Chamber.

II. That all persons engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits, desirous of joining the Chamber, and disposed to aid in carrying into effect the objects of the same, shall be admitted Members by the votes of a majority, of a General Meeting, as provided for in Rule III.

III. That one-third of the firms constituting the Chamber shall be

held sufficient to form any General Meeting when the same has been regularly called together,—one partner representing a firm ; but two or more partners in one firm being present, only to count as one Member of the Chamber.

That seven clear days' notice shall, in future, be given before any resolution proposing changes in the Rules of the Chamber be brought forward.

That such notice be given in writing to the Secretary, who shall circulate it for the information of the Members of the Chamber.

IV. That the Chamber reserves to itself the right of expulsion in case of need, to be decided at a General Meeting by a majority of three-fourths of the Members present at such General Meeting duly convened.

V. The subscription of each firm, or Member of the Chamber, shall be Rupees 25 per month.*

VI. That the affairs and funds of the Association be managed by a Committee of Five Members, consisting of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Chamber, and three Members, to be elected annually at a General Meeting of the Chamber in the month of September The Chairman and Deputy Chairman as the case may be, to be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee, and, in their absence, the Committee to elect their own Chairman. Three to be a quorum.

VII. That no two Members of one firm shall be on the Committee at the same time.

VIII. That all questions before the Committee shall be decided by a majority, the Chairman having a second or casting vote in case of an equality of votes.

IX. That the Committee shall meet on Friday, or on such other day as may be found by them most convenient, of every week, to receive and dispose of all communications and references, and to take under their consideration, generally, all matters embraced in the objects of the Chamber ; and that their proceedings be laid on the table

* Increased to Rs. 20 by a Resolution of the Annual General Meeting in 1856.

for the inspection of all Members, subject to such regulations as they may make.

X. That General Meetings of the Chamber be held from time to time, as the Committee for the time being shall propose : that a Special General Meeting shall be called by the Chairman, or by his order, five days after the receipt of a requisition from any three firms—Members of the Chamber ; but that a majority of firms, represented by one or more Members from each firm, being Members of the Chamber, be required to constitute such General Meeting ; and that the Annual General Meeting shall be held in the Month of September, on such day as the Committee for the time being shall direct ; such Meeting to be convened on a five days' notice.

XI. That the Committee be authorised to provide suitable accommodation for the meeting of the Chamber ; to pay all expenses of the establishment ; and to control, generally, the management of the affairs of the Chamber.

XII. That all monies or funds of the Chamber, as received, be paid into the hands of the Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, and that the same be available by cheques signed by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Acting Chairman for the time being, and by one other Member of the Committee.

XIII. That a Secretary be appointed by a majority of Members, in such way as the Committee for the time being may point out ; that it shall be the duty of such Secretary to keep the records and accounts of the Chamber, to collect subscriptions, handing the same over to the Treasurer, to conduct correspondence, and to act generally under the directions of the Committee.

XIV. That all the proceedings of the Committee be subject to approval, or otherwise, of General Meetings, duly convened.

XV. That any stranger engaged or interested in mercantile pursuits, visiting the Presidency, may be introduced as an Honorary Member, by any Member of the Chamber inserting his name in a book to be kept for that purpose ; but that a residence of two months shall subject him to the rule for the admission of Members.

XVI. That an Annual Report of the proceedings be made, and copies sent to similar associations in India, China, and elsewhere.

XVII. That the foregoing Rules be added to, or altered, only by a majority of Members of the Chamber.

XVIII. That the firms whose signatures are attached be considered as acknowledging the "Bombay Chamber of Commerce," as now constituted, to represent their public and united interest.

XIX. That the foregoing Rules be copied into a book, to be kept with the records of the Chamber, and be signed by all the Members, and that copies be printed and delivered to each firm.

RESOLUTION OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING, NOV. 21, 1856.

XX. That in the event of any Member of the Committee resigning, or declining to serve, the remaining Members of the Committee shall fill up the vacancy.

RESOLUTION OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SEPT. 29, 1858.

XXI. That for the future all General Meetings of the Chamber shall be advertised in the Newspapers.

TONNAGE SCALE AT BOMBAY.

At a General Meeting of Merchants, held in the Offices of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, on the 6th June, 1856, convened by Circular, under the direction of the Committee of the Chamber, William Forsyth Hunter, Esq., Chairman of the Chamber, in the Chair—it was proposed by Henry Scott, Esq., of Messrs. Finlay, Scott, and Co., seconded by John Campbell, Esq., of Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, and Co., and unanimously carried,—"That from and after the 1st January, 1857, the following amended Scale be taken to regulate the Trade from Bombay and the Malabar Coast to the United Kingdom, in the absence of Special Agreement to the contrary:—

Articles.	To the Ton.
Aloes, in kegs	16 cwt.
Alum, in bags	20 do.
Annato, in cases	50 feet.
Apparel	do.
Arrowroot, in cases	do.
Assafœtida, in cases	do.
Barilla	20 cwt.
Bees'-wax, in cases	50 feet.
Betelnut, in bags	16 cwt.
Blackwood, in straight square logs	50 feet.
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Books	50 feet.
Borax, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Bullion	per cent.
Camphor, in cases	50 feet.
Canes, Rattans, in bundles	16 cwt.
Cardamoms, in bundles	50 feet.
Cassia Lignea, Fistula, and Buds	do.
Chassum	10 cwt.

ARTICLES (continued).	To the Ton.
China Root, in cases	50 feet.
Cigars	do.
Cinnamon, in bales	6 cwt.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Cloves in cases	do.
Do. in bags or frazils	10 cwt.
Coals	20 do.
Cocoa, in bags	12 do.
Coculus Indicus, in bags	16 do.
Coffee, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bags or frazils	16 cwt.
Coir, in bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or loose	6 cwt.
Do. Rope, in coils	8 do.
Colocynth, in cases	50 feet.
Colombo Root, in bags	14 cwt.
Copra, in robins	12 do.
Coral, Rough (not Specimens), in bags	20 do.
Cotton, in bales	50 feet.
Cowries, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	20 cwt.
Cubebs	12 do.
Cummin Seed, in cases	50 feet.
Cutch or Terra Japonica, in bags or baskets, unscrewed	16 cwt.
Dates, wet	20 do.
Do. dry	16 do.
Dragon's Blood, in cases	50 feet.
Ebony, square and straight	do.
Do. otherwise	20 cwt.
Elephants' Teeth, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in bundles	18 cwt.
Do. loose	20 do.
Furniture	50 feet.
Galingals	12 cwt.
Galls, in bags	16 do.
Galls, in cases	50 feet.
Ginger, dry, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	12 cwt.
Gram	20 do.

ARTICLES (continued.)	To the Ton.
Ground Nuts, shelled	16 cwt.
Gums of all kinds, in cases	50 feet.
Gum Olibanum, in bags	16 cwt.
Hurtall, in cases	50 feet.
Hemp, in screwed bales	do.
Do. loose or in bundles	7 cwt.
Hides and Skins in Screwed bales	50 feet.
Do. loose and in small bundles	12 cwt.
Horns, Buffalo and Cow, loose	16 cwt.
Do. Deer, loose	8 do.
Horn Tips, of any kind	16 do.
Indigo, in cases	50 feet.
Jackwood	do.
Lac Dye, in shells or cases	do.
Linseed, in bags	18 cwt.
Mace, in cases	50 feet.
Mother-o'-Pearl, in cases	do.
Do. in bags.	20 cwt.
Munjeet or Madder Root, in cases or bales	50 feet.
Do. in bundles or bags	12 cwt.
Musk, in cases	50 feet.
Myrabolams in bags	16 cwt.
Nutmegs, in cases	50 feet.
Nux Vomica, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	16 cwt.
Oil of any kind, in casks	210 imp. gals
Oil Seeds, Teel, Rape, Mustard, Khorassan, and Castor.	17 cwt.
Opium	per chest.
Paddy, in bags	16 cwt.
Pepper, in bags	do.
Pimento	14 do.
Plumbago, in bags	20 do.
Rattans, in bundles	16 do.
Do. Ground	do.
Red Wood	do.
Rhubarb, in cases	50 feet.
Rice, in bags	20 cwt.
Safflower, in cases	50 feet.
Do. in screwed bales	do.

ARTICLES (continued).

	To the Ton.
Safflower in bags	10 cwt.
Sago, in cases	50 feet.
Sal Ammoniac, in cases	do.
Do. in bags	18 cwt.
Saltpetre	20 do.
Sandal and Sapan Wood	16 do.
Sealing-Wax, in cases	50 feet.
Senna, in bags	6 cwt.
Do. in bales	50 feet.
Shells, Rough, in bags	20 cwt.
Silk, in bales	10 do.
Do. in cases	50 feet.
Soap, in cases	do.
Sugar, in bags	20 cwt.
Talc	do.
Tallow	50 feet.
Tamarinds	18 cwt.
Tea, in chests	50 feet.
Timber, Teak, Square Planks and Poon	do.
Do. Round, one-fifth off.	
Tobacco in bales	50 feet.
Tortoise Shells, in chests	do.
Turmeric, in bags	13 cwt.
Tutenague	20 do.
Unrated Wood	14 do.
Whangees (*vide* Canes)	16 do.
Wheat	20 do.
Wines and Spirits, in casks	50 feet.
Do. in cases	do.
Wool, in screwed bales	do.
Zedoary	20 cwt.

*** The Standard Ton at Bombay for Measurement Goods shall be taken at 50 cubic feet."

Proposed by James Fleming, Esq., of Messrs. Wm. Nicol and Co., and seconded by William Trevor Roper, Esq., of Messrs. Lawrence and Co., and carried unanimously,—"That the Freight on Oil be paid on the full gauge of the Cask, ascertained at the port of discharge."

Proposed by Thomas Stock Cowie, Esq., of Messrs. Remington and Co., and seconded by John Parsons, Esq., of Messrs. Cardwell, Parsons, and Co., and carried unanimously,—"That when Freight is payable on weight, the same is to be on the Nett Weight delivered."

(Signed) W. F. HUNTER,
Chairman.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

FOR THE MEASUREMENT BY CALLIPERS, UPON SHIPMENTS TO GREAT BRITAIN, OF COTTON, WOOL, HEMP, AND OTHER SCREWED AND PRESSED BALES AT THIS PORT.

I. That Callipers shall from time to time be submitted to the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and, if found correct, shall be branded with a Stamp bearing the name of the Chamber, to indicate the same.

II. That if, from use or otherwise, any Callipers should get out of order and be objected to, the party objecting shall send the Callipers to the Chamber for examination ; and should the objection be valid, the Chamber Stamp shall be defaced by the Secretary ; if, however, the objection is found to be groundless, the Secretary shall give a note to that effect, and the party objecting shall be bound by his decision.

III. That any Callipers found incorrect, and on which the Stamp has been defaced, may be re-stamped after adjustment.

IV. That no measurements shall be held good, except such as are taken by Callipers bearing the Chamber's Stamp.

V. That Cotton, Hemp, Wool, and other screwed bales, shall be measured as follows, namely : the greatest length to be first ascertained, and then the Bale, to be set on either end, as the Shipmaster may wish, and cross measurements to be taken at top over the lashings, excepting the knots, and as near the centre of the bale as possible. That an average of 100 bales be struck by ascertaining the actual measurement of any 10 bales, and proportionately, the Shipper selecting and measuring one-half, and the Shipmaster the other half ; should, however, any dispute or difficulty arise in the selection of bales, either party to have the option of measuring the whole quantity.

VI. That all produce subject to measurement be measured within the day on which it has been ordered to be screwed, provided the order has been given by the Shipmaster or Agents of the Vessel ; and that from 1st June to 15th October the same be measured at the Screws ; during the remainder of the year, if required, on the Bunder, weather permitting. No Cotton, Wool, or other goods, to be measured, until a Custom House Pass has been obtained for the same.

VII. That, in the event of the Shipmaster not attending to measure at such hour as may have been appointed by him, the Agent or Agents of the Ship do empower a person to attend on his behalf, whose sanction to the measurement shall be binding upon the Shipmaster.

GENERAL RATES OF COMMISSION.

Table of General Rates of Commission chargeable in Bombay, as revised by the Chamber of Commerce, and confirmed at a General Meeting, held on the 11th February, 1843.

		Per cent
1,	On procuring freight .. .. Brokerage, when actually incurred, shall be considered a legitimate charge in ships' accounts.	5
2,	On collecting freight	2½
3,	On tendering a vessel (if accepted) for the conveyance of troops ; on the amount of the charter party ..	5
4,	On shipping goods of every description, on which no commission for the purchase has been charged ..	2½
5,	On shipping treasure, bullion, and jewellery ...	1
6,	On ship's disbursements when in funds	1
7,	On ship's disbursements when not in funds	2½
8,	On account of passage money, whether the same passes through the Agent's hands or not	2½
9,	On effecting insurance	0½
10,	On settling insurance losses, whether partial or total, also on procuring return of premium, exclusive of commission on receipt of cash	2½
11,	On the sale or purchase of goods of all denominations (except as under)	5
12,	On purchases of all kinds with the proceeds of goods sold, and on which a commission of 5 per cent, has been previously charged	2½
13,	On the sale or purchase of ships, houses, and lands, of opium, and of diamonds, pearls, and jewellery of all descriptions	2½
14,	On the sale or purchase of treasure or bullion.. ..	1
15,	On the sale or purchase of cattle	5½
16,	On goods consigned which are disposed of by outcry, or sent to a shop, on net proceeds	5

		Per cent.
17,	On goods consigned, and afterwards withdrawn; invoice cost	2½
18,	On guaranteeing the responsibility of person to whom goods are sold, on the amount of sale	2½
19,	On attending the delivery of contract goods to the company or individuals	2½
20,	On collecting house-rent	2½
21,	On sale or purchase of private bills of exchange ..	1
22,	On effecting remittances by bills of exchange ..	1
23,	On taking up at interest bills from the Company, exclusive of one per cent. on remitting	1
24,	On exchanging Company's securities of all descriptions, or investing money therein, and on transferring Government paper from one constituent to another ..	0½
25,	On surrendering or depositing in the Treasury Company's security of all descriptions	0½
26,	On procuring money on respondentia or on loan ..	2
27,	On recovering of bonds, or of bills for absentees, overdue at the time of their being placed in the possession of the Agent	2
28,	On debts when a process at law by arbitration is necessary	2½
29,	On debts when recovered by such means	5
30,	On managing the affairs of the estate for an executor or administrator	5
31,	On recovering funds from a bankrupt estate ..	2½
32,	On guaranteeing bills, bonds, or debts in general, by endorsement or otherwise	2½
33,	On bills of exchange returned noted or protested ..	1
34,	On granting and cashing letters of credit	2½
35,	On becoming security to Government or public bodies in any case	2½
36,	On depositing Government paper as security for constituents	1
37,	On receipt or payment, at the option of the Agent, of all monies not arising from proceeds of goods on which commission has been previously charged ..	1
38,	In all cases where the debtor side of the account exceeds the creditor side, including the balance of interest, commission to be charged at the rate of ..	1

SHIP FREIGHT INWARDS.

WITH reference to the payment of Inward Freight at Bombay when stated in Sterling, we, the undersigned Merchants, do hereby agree that for the future, all such Freight falling due under Bills of Lading dated on or after the 1st November next, shall (in the absence of Special Agreement, *or when stated to be payable at the current rate of Exchange)* be paid and received by us at the rate of Two Shillings per Rupee.

It is understood that the Agreement dated February 1849 shall continue to regulate the payment of all Freights falling due under Bills of Lading dated previous to 31st October next.

(Signed) FORBES & Co.
„ REMINGTON & Co.
„ LECKIE & Co.
„ LEGGATT, MCKENZIE & Co.
„ PEEL, CASSELS & Co.
„ FINLAY, SCOTT & Co.
„ LAWRENCE & Co.
„ A. H. HUSCHKE & Co.
„ DIROM, HUNTER & Co.
„ STEVENS BROTHERS.
„ G. PERRY & Co.
„ W. LANGLOIS, A. LEROYS & Co.
„ ROBERT STRONG & Co.
„ EDWARD BATES & Co.
„ GREY & Co.
„ VINAY, FILS & Co.
„ HEYCOCK & Co.
„ WILLIAM MCHAFFIE & Co.
„ HASTINGS, HICKS, SIM, and Co.

(Signed) VOLKART BROTHERS.
„ RENNIE, SCOVELL & Co.
„ LYON, BROTHERS & Co.
„ WM. NICOL & Co.
„ MARTIN, YOUNG & Co.
„ RITCHIE, STEUART & Co.
„ MACINDOE, ROGERS & Co.
„ CARDWELL, PARSONS and Co.
„ W. & A. GRAHAM & Co.
„ ROBERT FRITH & Co.
„ WALLACE & Co.
„ MCCULLOCH & Co.
„ EWART, LATHAM & Co.
„ CAMPBELL, MITCHELL and Co.
„ W. C. SILLAR & Co.
„ KILLICK, NIXON & Co.
„ GEORGE POLLEXFEN and Co.
T. R. RICHMOND.

Bombay, August, 1858.

GENERAL MEETINGS IN 1864.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held on the 19th January, 1864, at the Office of the Chamber, at half-past two, for the purpose of considering the subjects noted in the undermentioned Circular.

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.

Walter R. Cassels, Esq.,
B. H. Cama, Esq.,
L. Mavrogordato, Esq.
Edward Walter, Esq.,
H. Maxwell, Esq.,
W. Nixon, Esq.,
J. Hurst, Esq.,
W. F. Stearns, Esq.,
J. E. Grimm, Esq.,
A. E. Ashley, Esq.,
J. Achenbach, Esq.,
T. R. R. Davison, Esq.,
Gust: Ventz, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
J. L. Scott, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
Souza Pinto, Esq.,
Charles Macdonald, Esq.
Arch. C. Scott, Esq.,
Robert McIlwraith, Esq.,
G. A. Ketridge, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
H. Somverville, Esq.,
John Mitchell, Esq.,
John Sands, Esq.,
—— Sedgwick, Esq.,
A. B. Bogle, Esq.,
R. L. Tracey, Esq.,
A. J. Hunter, Esq.,
P. Adams, Esq.,
W. F. Wesche, Esq.
George Whitley, Esq.,
W. Cooper, Esq.,
W. Killick, Esq.,
Thos. Booth, Esq.,
A. C. Brice, Esq.,

The following Circular, convening the meeting, having been read by the Chairman—

To the MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BOMBAY.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to inform you, that a Special General Meeting of the Chamber will be held on Tuesday next, the 19th instant, at half-past two P. M., to consider the following subjects—

A Gold Currency for India.
The Report of the Sub-Committee on damaged Piece Goods.
The Proposal to ascertain the periodical Stocks of Piece Goods.
The Railway Terminus question.
And to ballot for new Members.

The attendance of Members is particularly requested.

By order of the Committee,
(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

The following resolutions were passed :—

Proposed by Walter R. Cassels, Esq., seconded by Robert McIlwraith, Esq., and carried unanimously,—" That this Meeting recognising the defectiveness and inefficiency of our present monetary system, and the pressing need of reform, appoint a Committee to prepare a Memorial urgently praying Government to introduce a Gold Currency into India."

Proposed by James Bevis, Esq., seconded by H. J. Marsden, Esq., and carried unanimously,—" That the Hon'ble M. H. Scott, Esq., Walter R. Cassels, Esq., and Alexander Brown, Esq., be appointed a Committee to carry out the object of the foregoing resolution."

The following amendments having been previously put and negatived.

Proposed by A. Grant, Esq., seconded by Peter Adams, Esq., —" That the Chamber is not at present prepared to appoint a Committee to draw up a Memorial to Government recommending a change in the Currency of India."

Proposed by A. C. Brice, Esq., seconded by J. Steuart, Esq.,— " That the question of the Gold Currency for India be postponed for the present."

The following report was then read by the Chairman—

REPORT of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, appointed at the General Meeting of the Chamber on the 20th April 1863, to inquire into the subject of the delivery of Damaged Piece Goods in Bombay.

YOUR Committee beg respectfully to place before the Chamber the result of their inquiries on the above subject.

1. The Committee considered that the best way of arriving at the general usage of the Mercantile Community was to draw up a set of questions, embodying the points involved, and to circulate these to the different European Houses, with a request that each would supply categorical answers to the queries. The Committee have to express their thanks to the Mercantile Community for the valuable information so fully afforded them in reply to their request. A copy of the questions is appended hereto.

2. The Committee found that the practice followed in regard to Goods damaged by salt-water, whether in cases or bales, is almost invariably to insist on the buyer taking delivery of the sound portion of the package, when the proportion of the pieces damaged is not very great. There seems to be some difference of opinion as to what proportion of damage justifies a seller in permitting a buyer to reject a package *in toto*; but it is a generally acknowledged principle, that in any case the buyer is bound to take the loose pieces that are sound, and that it is only when the seller may consider it more for the advantage of the concerned to permit the rejection of the whole package, that such a course should be followed, the option in the matter being entirely in the hands of the seller.

3. After careful consideration your Committee recommend that the custom as stated in the last para. be assumed as the rule in this market. Without wishing to fix an invariable rule as to the proportion of damaged pieces in a package which makes it advisable to permit rejection, they would indicate a half as the proportion which seems to justify such a course. The Committee are aware that exceptional circumstances must sometimes arise which make it desirable that a seller should exercise his discretion irrespective of rule, and they think that a general understanding on the subject is all that is advisable.

4. With regard to Twist bales, your Committee found the custom generally followed to be to permit the rejection of damaged bales, in cases when an allowance for damage is not arranged. There are circumstances connected with the trade in Twist, such as the preference shown by buyers up-country for bales in their original packages, as well as the guarantee which the package affords that the numbers of the bundles are uniform, which place this article in a different position from Piece Goods, and afford a

plea for the custom followed; so that, on the whole, although the Committee found a considerable difference of opinion among the Mercantile Community in the matter, they would recommend that when a bale of Twist is ascertained to be damaged by salt-water (that is to say the contents of a bale), the buyer should be entitled to reject the entire package, if no arrangement for allowance can be arrived at.

5. The question of damage by mildew has also been the subject of investigation by the Committee. There is some difference of opinion as to whether a buyer should be entitled to reject a whole bale when the mildew only appears in a portion of the contents. The general rule which the Committee would recommend for the adoption of the Chamber is, that in cases when the mildew is caused by some inherent defect in the cloth itself, or in the substances used in its manufacture, or in bleaching or dyeing, and not by any external cause, such as defective packing, steaming in the hold of a ship, &c., the buyer should be entitled to reject the whole package. When the mildew is the effect of some external cause such as stated above, the buyer should be bound to accept the loose pieces that may be sound, in the same way as in cases of salt-water damage.

6. Although a clause in Piece Goods contracts, providing for cases of damage, would tend to prevent disputes, your Committee think that such a matter is best left to the discretion of each House, and had better not form the subject of a Resolution of the Chamber.

7. With regard to Goods bought for speculation, a portion of which may prove to be damaged, your Committee would recommend that these be treated in exactly the same way as ordinary transactions, at it is always in the power of the buyer, knowing exactly what is the rule that will be acted on, to protect himself by special stipulations in the contract.

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
„ ALEX. BROWN,
„ S. F. WALLACE.

GENTLEMEN,—The Committee appointed at the last General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to consider the question of

the delivery of partially damaged goods as between buyer and seller, feeling that the opinion and experience of the different Members of the Chamber will greatly aid them in making their report, have taken the liberty of drawing up a few queries bearing on the subject, which they will be greatly obliged by your answering *seriatim*, and returning to them with the expression of your views, as early as convenient.

Bombay, 28*th May*, 1863.

1. In delivering to a buyer packages of Piece Goods in which some of the pieces happen to be damaged by sea-water, or otherwise, is it your practice to insist on the buyer's taking delivery of the sound pieces in the package, or to allow him the option of rejecting the whole package on account of the damage?
2. Do you consider that a buyer is bound to take delivery of loose pieces of cloth (the sound portions of packages partially damaged) however large the proportion of damaged pieces in the package may be? If not, what proportion of damaged pieces do you think would warrant a buyer in rejecting a package?
3. Have you any clause in your contracts providing for delivery of broken portions of damaged packages? If so, please state its terms?
4. Do you consider that the same rule which applies to Piece Goods should apply also to Twist?
5. Do you think that in cases of mildew in a package a buyer is bound to take any loose pieces in which no actual present trace of mildew is to be found?
6. What do you suggest as the best uniform rules to be followed by the mercantile community, and the course most equitable both for buyers and sellers, in the above matters?

Proposed by W. R. Cassels, Esq., seconded by A. C. Scott, Esq., and carried unanimously:—"That the rules embodied in the Report of the Committee of the Chamber appointed at a General Meeting on the 20th April 1863, to inquire into the subject of the delivery of damaged Piece Goods, be adopted for the regulation of the trade."

Proposed by R. McIlwraith, Esq., seconded by W. R. Cassels, Esq.,

and carried unanimously :—" That at present it is not desirable to call upon the Members of the Chamber to return their stocks of Piece Goods."

Proposed by W. R. Cassels, Esq., seconded by H. Maxwell, Esq., " That Robert McIlwraith, Esq., W. Cooper, Esq., A. F. Wallace, Esq., and the Chairman be appointed a Committee to confer with Government upon the subject of convenient Railway Termini for Bombay."

The following firms were proposed and admitted Members after a ballot :—

Messrs. J. N. Wadia, Sons and Co. were proposed as Members by Julius Achenbach, Esq., seconded by H. Brooke, Esq., and after a ballot, were declared duly elected.

Messrs. David Sassoon and Co. were proposed as Members by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., and seconded by Andrew Grant, Esq., and after a ballot, were declared duly elected.

Messrs. Frangopulo Agelasto and Co. were proposed as Members by Messrs. Ralli Brothers, and seconded by H. Brooke, Esq., and after a ballot, were duly elected.

Messrs. Roper, Price and Co. were proposed as Members by Arch. Scott, Esq., seconded by Andrew Grant, Esq., and after a ballot, were declared duly elected.

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

H. BROOKE, Secretary.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at the office of the Chamber, on Wednesday, 17th February 1864 at noon, to consider the report of the Sub-Committee on the subject of Railway terminus accommodation for Bombay.

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman,* in the Chair.

W. Cooper Esq.,
T. R. Booth, Esq.,
John Stewart (Stewart and Co.,)
Alex. Stewart (Finlay and Co.,)
R. McIlwraith Esq.,
Alex Brown, Esq.,
W. R. Cassels, Esq.,
H. Maxwell, Esq.,
Julius Achenbach, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
John Mitchell, Esq.,
A. Huson, Esq.,
W. Nixon, Esq.,
R. Price Esq.,
C. Macdonald, Esq.,
James Tweedle, Esq.,
E. P. Repton, Esq.,
Thomas Comber, Esq.,

The notice convening the Meeting and the following Report were read—

To the MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, BOMBAY.

GENTLEMEN,—A Special General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, will be held on Wednesday, the 17th instant at noon, to consider the Report of the Sub-Committee on the Subject of Railway Terminus accommodation for Bombay.

ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 12th February 1864.

To the MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg to hand you annexed the Report of the Sub-Committee appointed on the 19th ultimo, to inquire into and report on the arrangements being made by Government and the Railway Companies with reference to Railway Terminus accommodation in Bombay.—I remain, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 18th February, 1864.

RAILWAY TERMINUS ACCOMMODATION IN BOMBAY.

To the CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

YOUR Committee appointed at the General Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce on 19th January 1864, to enquire into and report on the arrangements being made by Government and the Railway Companies with reference to Railway Terminus accommodation in Bombay, beg respectfully to report to the Chamber as follows:—

2.—The Committee having ascertained on application to the Government in the Railway Department, that the Bombay Government had resolved on a site for the passenger station of the G. I. P. Railway in Moody Bay, in the immediate vicinity of the Mint buildings,

proceeded to consider the desirability or otherwise of such an arrangement as affecting the interests of the public of Bombay.

3.—The Committee regret to report that they cannot approve of the plan acceded to by Government, which will perpetuate in a greatly enhanced degree all the inconveniences and annoyances, which under the present temporary arrangement have become well nigh intolerable, and which, in view of the immensely increased traffic in the neighbourhood of the bunder which a few years must witness, cannot fail to involve the most disastrous consequences to the trade of the port.

4.—The Committee feel that it would be wasting the time of the Chamber to dilate on the insufferable annoyance and nuisance caused by the present G. I. P. line cutting through between the native town and the different bunders lining the harbour to the north of Muddy Bay; no one interested in the trade of the port, no one with his eyes open who has ever happened to visit the locality during business hours, can avoid being aware of it. At every level crossing of the railway, passengers and carts and merchandise are constantly detained and the stoppage to traffic in this, the busiest part of the town, amounts in the aggregate to a dead lock for more than half the working day at some of these crossings. (A memo, is appended illustrative of this.)

5.—Independently of the direct expense and waste of time thus caused, the indirect loss to the public is very great in the one item of enhanced cost of carriage which this forced idleness of so many carts for so large a portion of the working day involves, as this enhanced cost of carriage must re-act on the price of all kinds of merchandise for which carriage is used.

6.—Were it the case that the greater part, or even a considerable part, of the goods conveyed to Bombay by the railway was intended for immediate shipment from one or other of the bunders, there might be a shadow of an excuse for entailing on the public the inconvenience of placing an almost impassable barrier between the business quarter of the town and the wharves, but it is well known to all connected with the trade of this place, that such is not the case, and that the great bulk of the goods coming by railway find a temporary destination, at all events, in the warehouses scattered over the native town.

7.—It is probable that as the trade of Bombay becomes more developed the quantity of goods coming direct to the bunders will largely increase, in which case it may be desirable in order to save the expense of loading and unloading, that means be provided by which loaded trucks shall be enabled to pass from the Waree Bunder goods station to one or other of the bunders to the southward, but this may easily be done, as it is constantly done in England, by having a sunk line of rails, running along the heads of the bunders to be used when necessary, with slow motive power, at hours convenient for the public which is a very different matter from having a main line of the railway intersecting the locality on which trains are constantly passing backwards and forwards and interrupting the ordinary road traffic.

8.—The Committee are not aware in how far the Government purpose to mitigate the present evils they have adverted to, by having bridges substituted for the level crossings now in use, such bridges, if provided in sufficient numbers, would no doubt improve matters, but unless the number was very great, the inconvenience to the public must continue excessive, and the interruption to business and loss of time caused by the presence of the railway would only be lessened, not by any means removed.

9.—The expense of making these bridges in sufficient numbers to meet the present and future exigencies of the traffic, and of providing the approaches to them, as well as the cost of the labour of taking a large proportion of the imports and exports of Bombay over bridges raised eighteen feet above the level of the ground on either side, on what must necessarily be a very steep gradient, are considerations not to be overlooked in viewing this question.

10.—The inconveniences they have enumerated appear to the Committee greatly to outweigh any possible advantages in the way of contact with the bunders, and of the facilities the proposed plan of having the terminus behind the Mint would give for the direct carriage of goods to the places of shipment, but it will scarcely be credited that no such facilities are contemplated by the Government. Even the possible advantage which the present temporary arrangement of Boree Bunder possesses of bringing goods nearer the heart of the town is to be done away with, and it is only in order to provide a passenger terminus in the Fort that the public is to be subjected, not only to all the evils already existing, but to an immense enhancement of them, by the prolongation

of the nuisance and the extension of the obstruction into, what must ere long be, the busiest business quarter of Bombay. The railway terminus and depot with its branching lines and long rows of sheds, impossible to be bridged, is to be put down between the native town on the one side, and on the other, the Custom House and the business quarter which must spring up on the reclamation of Moody Bay.

11.—The Committee cannot but view with regret, the postponement which the plan proposed by Government must cause to the long looked for and long promised accommodation in the way of a spacious Custom House quay for dutiable goods in Moody Bay. The placing of the railway station where it is proposed to put it, must lead to the site of the Custom House quay being fixed outside, in what is now deep water, and the reclamation of such a site must be a work of years. After the Custom House accommodation has been provided it will be just behind the railway station, and the traffic backwards and forwards to the Custom House will have to come round the end of the terminus through the narrow streets in the vicinity of the Town Barracks.

12.—In addition to this the whole of the passenger traffic is to be poured through the already choked and too narrow streets of the Fort, while the mass of the passengers will come, not from the Fort, for the benefit of the dwellers in which part of the town, above all, the inconvenience is to be caused, but from the native town, through which the railway is to pass without accommodating the inhabitants in the slightest degree in exchange for the nuisance it subjects them to.

13.—The Committee would press upon the notice of the Chamber the urgent necessity there is, under existing circumstances, for the Chamber's taking immediate action in the matter and strongly protesting against the decision arrived at by the Government, as stated in the resolution numbered 2556 of 1863, dated 23rd December 1863, (a copy of which is appended to this report.)

14.—The plan proposed by Col. Rivers, for placing the passenger station of the G. I. P. Railway in the vicinity of what was formerly the Bazaar Gate, and not far from the present temporary station at Boree Bunder, appears to the Committee to be less objectionable in many respects than the one determined on by the Government, seeing that the obstruction caused does not extend so far into the heart of the town, and would interfere much less with the access to

the Custom House quay in Moody Bay, but when the present interruption to business caused by the line, and the great increase of traffic consequent on the addition of some 400 acres to the available business locality outside the railway are considered, it appears to the Committee, that such a modification of the Government plan would still result in a most serious and annoying obstruction to business, even although bridges were substituted for the present level crossings at frequent intervals along the line through the native town.

15.—A passenger terminus in the locality proposed by Col. Rivers would certainly have this further advantage over the Government site, that it would be somewhat nearer the great mass of the native passengers, and would be much more approachable from all directions, while at the same time the narrow and crowded streets of the Fort would be relieved of the traffic which would in the other case pour through them from the native quarter.

16.—The Committee cannot, however, recommend to the Chamber the adoption of either of the plans they have noticed, inasmuch as both schemes retain the objectionable line of railway running through the town, dividing the native business portion of it from the bunder and shipping wharves, and moreover retain this merely in order to bring the passenger station into the Fort, while neither of them proposes to utilize, as might be expected, the presence of the Bombay and Baroda line coming through Back Bay.

17.—Assuming that the site for the goods station of the G. I. P. Railway is now irrevocably fixed at Waree Bunder, on the ground reclaimed by the Elphinstone Land Company, and that that locality is to be the limit of the goods traffic as far as the railway is concerned, at the north end of the harbour, and that the site of the goods station of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Company is fixed to be somewhere between the Fort and Colaba, which locality is to be the limit of the goods traffic by railway at the south end of the harbour, it stands to reason that the public interest would best be consulted by giving the owners of goods, carried by either of the railways, the option of having their goods loaded or unloaded either at the north or south end of the town. Cotton by the G. I. P. line from Oomrawatty might then be forwarded direct to Colaba; grain from Guzerat by the B. B. & C. I. Railway would be unloaded at Waree Bunder. Goods warehoused at Colaba, would be loaded there for Central In-

dia and Khandeish, and bales from the native town would be loaded at Waree Bunder for Baroda and Ahmedabad.

18.—To secure this advantage to the public the two railways should form a junction on the Flats beyond Byculla, and the north and south goods stations, at Waree Bunder and Colaba should be jointly occupied by both Companies.

19.—With regard to further accommodation for goods desired to be delivered, or loaded at the different bunders, the Committee consider that it would be desirable to have a sunk line of rails running across the landward end of all the different bunders and connected with other cross lines, at the discretion of the owners of each, by means of which loaded trucks might be brought, at convenient hours from every point of the bunders to the north goods station.

20.—As to the question of passenger terminus accommodation, the Committee consider that the wants of the community would be better provided for than at present, while at the same time an enormous advantage to the business community would be gained if the line of railway from the Waree Bunder to Boree Bunder were to be abolished altogether and the native town placed in immediate communication with the sea and the different bunders and wharves, The two companies should have two joint passenger stations, the main one opposite what was formerly the Church Gate, which would be convenient for those in the Fort, at Colaba, Sonapore, Calbadavi, &c., and another at Grant Road, which would be much more convenient for nearly the whole native town than a station in Moody Bay, and more suitable to the wants of passengers from Malabar Hill Breach Candy and Byculla; passengers from the Parell district would join trains at the junction on the Flats.

21.—What forms the present line of railway to Boree Bunder should be converted into a broad arterial line of road, running from the Bazaar Gate, skirting the whole of the bunders in turn, and passing along in front of the native town. In connection with this broad Boulevard another wide road shall be made at right angles to it, starting from the neighbourhood of the Musjid Bunder and running direct to the passenger station at Grant Road. These two wide thoroughfares would do an immense deal to relieve the present crowded state of the streets in the native town, and to facilitate the bunder traffic, and would, in the opinion of the Committee, be the greatest boon which the Government could well confer on the

native community, whether it be looked upon from a sanatory point of view, or with reference to the saving that would be effected in labour and cost of carriage to the trading interests of Bombay.

22.—In recommending the above course, the Committee have pointed out what appears to them the best arrangement for the good of the public; it may be that the engagements already entered into between the Government and the Railway Companies preclude the possibility of their suggestions being carried out. Should this unfortunately prove to be the case, it will be for the Chamber further to consider whether there is any alteration of the Government plan still possible, which would better serve the public interest than the arrangement decided on.

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
„ A. F. WALLACE,
„ W. COOPER.

Bomby, 12th February 1864.

PROTEST.—I entirely agree in the opinion expressed in the foregoing report as regards the site in Moody Bay, but I dissent from my colleagues in thinking, that the only practical question is a comparison of it with that proposed by Colonel Rivers, R. E. I believe the directors will never consent to take up the line from Waree Bay to the Fort, and that Government have now no power to compel them to do so. The recommendation of the majority of the Committee, therefore, appears to me to be impracticable, and I accordingly urge on the Chamber the most prompt and energetic opposition to the decision of Government to place the station in Moody Bay, all attention being concentrated on this point, instead of being divided between it and an impossible proposal.

(Signed) ROBERT McILWRAITH.

The following Resolution was then brought forward and carried unanimously:—

Proposed by W. R. Cassels, Esq., seconded by E. P. Repton, Esq., —"That the decision of the Chamber upon the report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the site chosen for a Railway Terminus be postponed until the report shall have been printed and placed in the hands of the Members a fortnight for consideration, and that in meantime the Committee be instructed to

inform Government that the question is being discussed, and respectfully to request that further action be suspended until the Chamber is able to make a representation on the subject."

The following firms having been ballotted for, were declared duly elected :—

"Messrs. Seigfried & Co., proposed by H. Brooke, Esq., seconded by Julius Achenbach, Esq., Messrs. H. Classon, & Co., proposed by J. Achenbach, Esq., seconded by H. Brooke, Esq."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at their Offices, on Thursday, the 3rd March, at noon, for the further consideration of the Report of the Sub-Committee on Railway Terminus accommodation for Bombay.

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.

James Tweedie, Esq.,
J. Siegfried, Esq.,
J. L. Scott, Esq.,
W. Nixon, Esq.,
J. Achenbach, Esq.,
Alex. Brown, Esq.,
Robert McIlwraith, Esq.,
Alex. Stewart, Esq.,
W. Cooper, Esq.,
A. D. Grant, Esq.,
John Stewart (Stewart & Co.)
Thomas Booth, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
A. J. Hunter, Esq.,
E. P. Repton, Esq.,
J. Bogie, Esq.
E. Pennell, Esq.,
J. Sands, Junior, Esq.,
W. Walker, Esq.,
A. Maclean, Esq.,
Peter Adams, Esq.,
B. H. Cama, Esq.,
R. L. Tracy, Esq., and
Robert T. Price, Esq.,

The notice convening the Meeting, having been read, the following resolution was brought forward :—

Proposed by Andrew Grant, Esq., seconded by R. McIlwraith, Esq., —"That with the alteration noted below* in the 22nd Section, the Report of the Sub-Committee be adopted by the Chamber and forwarded to the Local Government as the expression of the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce with reference to the arrangements for Railway Terminus accommodation in Bombay."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman the meeting separated.

---

* See Appendix B.

A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce, was held at the office of the Chamber, at noon on Tuesday, the 3rd May 1864, for the purpose of taking into consideration the present unsatisfactory state of Railway arrangements in relation to traffic requirements in this Presidency.

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman*, in the Chair.

The Hon'ble W. R. Cassels.	J. Bogie, Esq.,
J. L. Scott, Esq.,	Alex. C. Brice, Esq.,
A. J. Hunter, Esq.,	T. R. Booth, Esq.,
John Sands, Esq.,	J. Ahlers, Esq.,
Anthony Morrison, Esq.,	H. Brooke, Esq.,
S. Mavrogordato, Esq.,	J. Stewart, Esq.,
Jules Scigfried, Esq.,	W. Cooper, Esq.,
A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,	N. Entochide, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,	R. T. Price, Esq.,
Alex. Stewart, Esq.,	A. Havenith, Esq., and
J. Pennell, Esq.,	N. Manockjee Wadia, Esq.,

The notice convening the Meeting, having been read, the following resolutions were brought forward :—

Proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by J. L. Scott, Esq.,—"That in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce the inefficient working of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, calls for the immediate and energetic interference of Government; and that Government be addressed on the subject by the Chairman of the Chamber."

The following amendment thereon was then put by Alex. C. Brice, Esq., seconded by James Bevis, Esq.,—"That the Chamber of Commerce strongly urges on Government the advisability of appointing a Commission to enquire into the relation between the several departments on the Railway; and to ascertain why it is so inefficiently worked."

The amendment having been negatived, Mr. Gumpert's proposition was put to the vote and carried unanimously,—

The Bank of Hindustan, China and Japan, Limited, was proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by Andrew Grant, Esq., and after a ballot, declared duly elected.

The Meeting separated after a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Chamber of Commerce was held at their Office, on Friday, the 30th September 1864, at noon.

Present,—

Andrew Grant, Esq., *Chairman,* in the Chair.

A. C. Gumpert, Esq.,
H. T. Simpson (Comber and Co.)
Arthur Huson, Esq.,
W. Nixon, Esq.,
J. Pennell, Esq.,
W. Joynson, Esq.,
— Sybrandt, Esq.,
Washington Irving, Esq.,
J. L. Scott, Esq.,
L. Mavrogordato, Esq.,
Peter Adams, Esq.,
N. M. Wadia, Esq.,
J. Sands, Junior, Esq.,
J. E. Grimm, Esq.,
Gavin Steel, Esq.,
R. Ahlers, Esq.,
— Lang, Esq.,
F. Vix, Esq.,
W. Somerville, Esq.,
James Bevis, Esq.,
W. F. Wesche, Esq.,
A. J. Hunter, Esq.,
Thomas Wilson, Esq.,
H. Brooke, Esq.,
Miller, Esq.,
A. Stewart, Esq.,
A. F. Wallace, Esq.,
J. T. Cuvillier, Esq.,
James Macnee, Esq.,
T. Booth, Esq.,
A. C. Brice, Esq.,
R. L. Tracey, Esq.,
J. E. Smith, Esq.,
W. Cooper, Esq.,
P. Chrystal, Esq.,

The notice, convening the Meeting, and the Annual Report of the Committee, having been read, the following resolutions were brought forward :—

Proposed by J. E. Grimm, Esq. seconded by A. C. Brice Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Report now read be received with thanks, and printed for general information together with the documents therein referred to."

Proposed by James Bevis, Esq., seconded by N. M. Wadia, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Members of the Committee retiring are entitled to, and do receive the thanks of the Chamber for their attention to its interests during the year of office now expired."

Proposed by R. L. Tracey, Esq., seconded by Gavin Steel, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Committee for the ensuing year shall be as follows :—

A. C. Gumpert, Esq., Chairman.
Alex. Stewart, Esq., Deputy Chairman.
A. J. Hunter, Esq.,
A. Huson, Esq.,
H. Maxwell, Esq.,
} Members

Proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by Gavin Steel, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That Mr. James Taylor be elected Secretary in the place of Mr. Brooke, resigned, and that his salary be fixed at Rs. (400) four hundred per month."

Proposed by Andrew Grant, Esq., seconded by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That quarterly Meetings of the Chamber be instituted for the purpose of discussing any measures of public interest which may arise, and that in the interval between the Meetings the Committee of the Chamber be entrusted with the selection of subjects for discussion at those Meetings, and give notice of same to the Members beforehand. It being understood that such periodical Meetings are not to do away with the present system of circulating papers of interest among the Members and inviting opinions thereon."

Proposed by A. Grant Esq., seconded by A. J. Hunter, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Committee of the Chamber be appointed as a Sub-Committee to revise the Rules and report on the subject to a general Meeting of the Chamber."

The following firms were duly admitted Members of the Chamber:

Messrs. Passmore and Co.; proposed by James Bevis, Esq., seconded by Thomas Wilson, Esq.

Messrs, Montaulaud and Tallada; proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq. seconded by J. L. Scott, Esq.

Messrs. Soojawoodeen Tyabjeee and Co.; proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by A. J. Hunter, Esq.

The Bombay Presidency. Bank Limited, proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by W. Nixon, Esq.

Messrs J. S. Moore and Co.; proposed by A. Grant, Esq., seconded by A. J. Hunter, Esq.

The Financial Association of India and China; proposed by Andrew Grant, Esq., seconded by A. J. Hunter, Esq.

The following resolution was proposed by A. Grant. Esq., seconded by John L. Scott, Esq., and carried unanimously,—"That the Chamber recognizes the able services of Mr. Brooke, while Secretary to the Chamber, and that the warmest thanks of the Members be given to Mr. Brooke for the way he has conducted the duties of the office."

After a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the Meeting separated.

ANNUAL REPORT.

REPORT.

THE Committee have to report that during the past year many objects of great interest to the Mercantile Community have come before the Chamber, among which may be mentioned the question of a Gold Currency for India, the Wagers' Bill, the question of Railway Terminus Accommodation, &c. It has been the object of the Committee to bring before the Chamber all subjects of a nature affecting Mercantile interests, which have arisen during their term of Office, and they have to thank the Chamber for the prompt and zealous manner in which their endeavours to have such subjects discussed and ventilated have been seconded by the general body of the Members. Several most interesting public questions, such as the application of a Gold Currency system to India, the new Municipal Bill for Bombay, the prevalence of Mildew in Manufactured Goods, are now ripe or nearly ripe, for discussion, but these the Committee must hand over to their successors in office.

The year which has just passed, has been one of continued prosperity for Bombay, and the increase of wealth poured into the place has afforded the means

for setting about many works of enterprise and public utility. Our city, itself, which hitherto has had but small claims to eminence in an architectural point of view, is rapidly being transformed by the exertions of His Excellency the Governor and the wealth of the Citizens, into a Capital to take its place among the chief Cities of the World. Municipal matters, too long neglected or carelessly performed, are being attended with more of zeal and energy, and an intelligent interest in public affairs is visibly on the increase among the Community. One of the principal features of the year in Bombay has been the great increase in Banking and Financial Companies which we have lately witnessed. Another feature has been the excessive speculation in all sorts of Joint-stock Shares, which has been pushed to an extent which the Committee cannot but regard as full of danger to the well-being of the Community.

During the year the Committee has had frequent occasion to correspond with the Local Government on questions of Mercantile interest, and the representations of the Chamber have, in general, met with that courtesy and consideration at the hands of the Government, which former Committees have had to report.

Many questions of Commercial interest have been submitted to the Committee for their decision in the course of the year; the growing business of the Port has caused such references to the Com-

mittee of the Chamber to be much more frequent than formerly.

Owing to the great increase of questions possessing much interest to the Mercantile Community, on which it is desirable that the Chamber should express its opinion, the Committee would suggest the plan of having General Meetings of the Chamber at periodical intervals, at which all questions interesting to the Members should be discussed—questions intended to be brought forward to be previously arranged by the Committee, and a Note of them circulated to the Members before the Meeting takes place. Such a system would in a great measure supersede the old fashion of minute writing, which has not been found successful in eliciting in a satisfactory manner the general opinion of the body.

The Committee would further recommend to the Meeting the appointment of a Sub-committee to revise the Rules of the Chamber, many of which, framed as long as 14 years ago, have become ill-adapted to its present altered position.

It is with regret that the Committee of the Chamber have to notice the retirement from the Office of Secretary of Mr. Henry Brooke, who has for several years so ably discharged its duties. The Committee feel that they are only speaking the sentiments of all the Members of the Chamber when they acknowledge the great debt of gratitude which the Chamber owes to Mr. Brooke for his valuable services.

INEFFICIENT WORKING OF THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

THE many and serious evils arising from the above cause appeared to the Committee to call for an expression of opinion on the part of the Chamber, and they accordingly convened a Special Meeting, on the 3rd May, 1864, to consider the subject. At this Meeting, the conduct of the Railway Company was severely condemned, and the following resolution was passed unanimously :—"That in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, the inefficient working of the G. I. P. Railway calls for the immediate and energetic interference of Government, and that the Government be addressed on the subject by the Chairman of the Chamber." A letter was accordingly addressed to Government by the Chairman, copy of which will be found in the Appendix A. The reply of the Government to the Chamber's communication, which will also be found in the Appendix, was by no means satisfactory. They professed to be ignorant to a great degree of the existence of the evils complained of by the Chamber, and appeared to be satisfied that the Railway Company were doing all that could reasonably be expected of them for the accommodation of the public. Holding these opinions it is not to be wondered at that the Company has not been kept alive to a proper sense of its duties to the public by the Government Officers, whose task it is to see that the Public interests are properly cared for, but it is difficult to

see how, with the daily recurring instances of gross mismanagement on the line, and with the Report of their own Officer in their hands, showing the number of preventible accidents in the loss of life and limb which have happened in the last twelve months, the Government have arrived at such a conclusion. The Chamber was inclined before to attribute the blame generally to the Railway Company, but since receipt of the Government reply to its remonstrance, the conclusion appears unavoidable, that as the Government Officers in the Railway Department appear to have shut their eyes to the Company's short-comings, to them must belong a large share of the responsibility for the state of things of which the Mercantile community and the Public have to complain.

The following is the Annual Report of the progress of the G. I. P. Railway during the past year—that from the Baroda Railway has not yet been received.

No. 4080 OF 1864.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your letter of the 29th ultimo, I am desired to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying Memorandum of the progress of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the year ending 30th June, 1864.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
W. R. HOARE,
Secretary.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company's Offices, Bombay,
28th Sept., 1864.

Memorandum of Progress of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, during the year ending 30th June, 1864, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

No further portion of the Line has been opened for Public traffic during the year ; but the Section from Mulkapoor to Sheagaum, a distance of 33 miles on the Nagpoor Branch, has been completed and will be opened after the monsoon.

Goods traffic on the Bhore Ghaut Incline, which was interrupted during the monsoon of 1863, was resumed on the 9th of November, and the double line having been completed to Kurjut Station in the Konkan by the 3rd of March, the Incline was opened for passenger traffic on the 23rd idem.

The total length of open Line is 555 miles.

The Line under construction is 559¾ miles in length, divided into the following Contracts :—

	Miles.
Contract No. 11, Thull Ghaut Incline	9¾
Part of Contract No. 13, Mulkapoor to Budnaira	105
Contract No. 14, Budnaira to Nagpoor	108
Part of Contract No. 15, Bhosawul Junction to Hurda	136½
Contract No. 16, Hurda to Sohagpoor	82
Contract No. 17, Sohagpoor to Jubbulpoor	118½
Total	559¾

The Thull Ghaut Incline is nearly completed, and is expected to be open for Traffic in December next.

Of No. 13 Contract, 33 miles from Mulkapoor to Sheagaum are now ready for opening, and the remainder of the Contract will most probably be completed in May next.

A large portion of No. 15, Contract will probably be opened immediately after next monsoon, by which time Taptee Viaduct will be finished.

The remaining Contracts are making steady progress.

The Electric Telegraph has been extended to Nagpoor, and is now being erected between Bhosawul and Jubbulpoor.

The extension of the South-east Line from Sholapoor has been staked out to Voolburga, whence it has lately been determined that the junction with the Madras Railway shall be constructed by way of Raichoor, instead of Hydrabad.

(Signed) E. W. WEST,
Acting Chief Resident Engineer.

27*th September*, 1864.

(True Copy)
W. R. HOARE,
Secretary.

RAILWAY TERMINUS ACCOMMODATION.

This important question has occupied the attention of the Chamber, and a Committee consisting of Mr. A. Grant, Mr. R. McIlwraith, Mr. A. F. Wallace, and Mr. W. Cooper, was appointed to draw up a Report for the consideration of the Chamber at a Special Meeting, which was held on the 3rd March, 1864. The Report of the Committee which will be found in the Appendix B, was unanimously adopted by the Meeting, and directed to be forwarded to Government as the expression of the views of the Chamber, which was duly done. The Committee have had no communication from Government in reply, but no doubt the Chamber's opinion would have its full weight with His Excellency the Governor in Council in any decision on the subject which may have been arrived at.

THE POST OFFICE.

From the papers in the Appendix C it will be seen that the Committee have been in communica-

tion with the Postal authorities on several subjects during the year. Among others, the closing of the post for China, on the same day as the English mail formed the subject of correspondence, and the inconvenience arising therefrom was pointed out to the Postmaster-General. The Committe hope, that the concession asked for by them will be granted. The subject of irregularities in the Bombay Post-office has also lately given rise to correspondence, which will be found in the Appendix. From the Committee's enquiries, corroborated by the reply of the Postmaster-General, and the facts brought to light by the local press, it seems, but too certain that great laxity and negligence exists in the Bombay office, and that prompt and sweeping reforms are necessary, in order to place the establishment on a satisfactory footing.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

This subject has, as usual occupied the attention of the Committee during the year. In May last, the Committee received an enquiry from Government, as to whether the working of the Bombay E. T. Department had improved during the past year, and whether any of the former grounds of complaint on the part of the Chamber, had been removed. This enquiry was circulated for opinions to all the Members of the Chamber, many of whom minuted on the subject, but the minutes were unanimous, as to

the continued disgraceful state of the Department which was so bad as almost to nullify its usefulness. The only perceptible improvement appeared to be in the more correct spelling and rendering of messages. The systematic interruption to the communication with Galle after the arrival of each overland steamer, shows the utter incapacity of those at present at the head of the Department to exercise a proper and vigilant control over their staff, and until a radical change in the management at head quarters, and in the system pursued in the Department is inaugurated, there seems no hope of arriving at a better state of things. (Appendix D).

COTTON CULTIVATION.

THE communications of interest which have come before your Committee in the course of the year are extremely few, being confined to one from a gentleman, who has always taken a lively interest in such matters, Mr. John Fleming, of Messrs. W. Nicol and Co., who directed some experiments to be made in Dharwar with superior native seed, which amply demonstrates the advantages to be gained by improved cultivation; and another from Captain W. A. Kerr, in Khandeish, regarding an experiment with New Orleans seed.

The paucity of communications may partly be attributed to the large profits realized under the old system of Native cultivation, and partly to the appointment of Dr. Forbes, as Commissioner for the

improvement of Cotton cultivation in this Presidency, who has doubtless been actively employed in furthering this desirable object. No report of that gentleman's operations has yet been furnished to the Chamber, but your Committee entertain the greatest confidence that a marked improvement will be effected in the cultivation of those Districts specially placed under his superintendence. (Appendix E).

COTTON ADULTERATION.

THE Correspondence bearing on the Cotton Frauds' Act (Act IX. of 1863) is somewhat voluminous, but will repay perusal, evidencing as it does the great interest taken in the subject by the leading members of the Bombay Civil service, and the Commercial body generally.

The Act has been brought into operation with great caution and discrimination, and no complaints of undue pressure or harshness have been brought to the notice of your Committee. The general quality of the Cotton brought to market does not show much improvement in staple or cleanliness, but there is a very marked improvement in the general freedom from seed, and wilful adulteration which had become so growing an evil previous to the passing of the Act. Your Committee consider that the Officers entrusted with the administration of an Act so likely to cause irritation, deserve the greatest credit for the judgment exhibited in bringing it into operation.

Considerable discussion took place relating to the robberies in the Broach and Surat rivers, but without any very practical result. There have, however, been no complaints of late, and it is therefore probable that the discussion has led to increased vigilance on the part of the existing police authorities in those Districts.

No report has yet been issued by the Commissioner under the Act, and the Committee are therefore unable to ascertain the cost of working it, their only guide to this is an estimate furnished by the Commissioners which fell far short of the probable produce of the tax of 4 annas per bale. Seeing that by the Act, 4 annas per bale is fixed as a maximum charge, the Committee are of opinion that if the actual expenses agree at all with the estimate, the rate might well be reduced to something more in proportion to the cost of working the measure.

CUSTOM HOUSE DETAILS.

SEVERAL Communications of interest relative to the reduction of duties, and increase of accommodation at the Custom House, forms of receipts, trade returns, &c., &c., will be found in the Appendix F, but they do not call for any special remark.

The want of accommodation, at the Custom House Bunder, continues to be severely felt by the mercantile community, and calls for the energetic prosecution on the part of the Reclamation works in Mody Bay.

FIRE ENGINE ESTABLISHMENTS.

THE fire which took place in June last, in Hummum street, drew prominent attention to the inefficiency of the present Fire Engine Establishments, and a Meeting of the Representatives of the Fire Insurance Companies took place on the 20th June, 1864, to consider the question. It was resolved to suggest to Government, the appointment of a Committee to consider the whole subject. Government at once acceded to the request, and the following Committee has been formed :—

A Grant, Esq., President.

R. McIlwraith, Esq.	F. King, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Bombay Water Works.
W. F. Stearns, Esq.	
H. Brooke, Esq.	

With these gentlemen, the honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to associate :—

N. W. Oliver, Esq., Acting Senior Magistrate of Police.

F. H. Souter, Esq., Acting Commissioner of Police.

D. J. Kennelly, Esq., Municipal Commissioner.

The Committee are now engaged in investigating the subject, and it is hoped that their labours will result in the recommendation of some practical measures by which the means of protection to property against Fire in this City will be greatly improved. (Appendix G).

WAGERS' BILL.

A VERY animated discussion took place upon the introduction of this measure, and many Members of the Chamber recorded their views on the merits of the question. Considerable difference of opinion prevailed in the Chamber, and the Act lately passed may be regarded in the light of a compromise. The subject has been so constantly before the public for the last twelve months, that your Committee do not feel it necessary to do more than record the fact of the passing of the Bill—by the local Legislative Council. The written opinion of Members will be found in Appendix H.

GOLD CURRENCY.

THE discussion on this important question was inaugurated by Mr. Walter Cassels, in a series of letters to the Chamber and to Sir Bartle Frere, and the Chamber at a Special General Meeting held on the 19th January, affirmed the general principle that a Gold Currency was desirable, leaving the question of the mode of its introduction to be settled by Government.

The measure proposed by Sir Charles Trevelyan, is now before the public, and will form a fit subject for consideration by the Bombay Chamber, which may fairly be said to have taken the lead among the Mercantile Associations of India in the discussion of this interesting question. The retiring Committee

recommended the subject to the attention of the Chamber generally and of their Successors in office. The papers relating to this subject will be found in Appendix I.

FUNDS OF THE CHAMBER.

THE income has been about equal to the expenditure—the balance in the hands of the Treasurers being Rupees 2,464 against Rs. 2,160, at the same time last year. (See Appendix)

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC ARRANGEMENTS.

No. 57 of 1864.

To the Hon. H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Chamber of Commerce to bring to the notice of the Bombay Government the present most unsatisfactory state of the traffic arrangements of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company, which formed the subject of consideration at a Special General Meeting of the Chamber on the 3rd instant.

The Chamber was unanimously of opinion that the public is badly served under the present defective arrangements, that great and unnecessary loss and inconvenience has been already occasioned by careless neglect of the public interests, and that still more disastrous results are likely to ensue from the dead lock at which the traffic has now arrived, as evinced in the the Notification of the Railway Company of 19th April in which they refuse to accept for carriage, after a certain date named, (5th May) an article which forms the staple trade of this Presidency.

The Chamber is fully alive to the great difficulties with which the Railway Company have to contend in the present unfinished state of their works on the Ghauts, but after making ample allowance for such obstacles to efficiency, the Chamber is of opinion that the shortcomings of the Railway Company are such as to call for the severe reprehension of the public whom they profess to serve.

It is not necessary to enter into details as to the nature of those shortcomings—whether as regards the culpable neglect to make provision for a traffic of the extent of which the Company have had ample warning or the utterly disorganized state of the Company's Staff, of which the public have constant and melancholy experience. Of such things the Bombay Government cannot fail to be informed through its own officers, whose duty it is to supervise the different Railways in this Presidency.

The Chamber considers it sufficient to bring to the notice of the Government that there exists, on the part of the mercantile community and of the public generally, a very strong feeling of dissatisfaction at the way in which they are at present treated by the G. I. P. Railway Company, and a conviction that the Railway Company are not justly acting up to their engagements in the way of accommodating the public, in return for the peculiar advantages which have been conceded to them at the hands of the State.

The Chamber would respectfully pray the Government to bring the pressure of its authority more stringently to bear upon the Railway Company in order to awaken them to a sense of their duty, and to put an end to the present state of wanton disregard of the interests of the public of which the Chamber of Commerce, as representing the mercantile interest, has a just right to complain.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT,
Chairman of the Chamber.

Bombay, 10*th May* 1864.

No. 1299 OF 1864.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

To ANDREW GRANT, ESQ.,
Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I have received and laid before Government your letter of the 10th instant.

2. The Chamber of Commerce complains that the G. I. P. Railway Company has not accommodated the public as they ought to have

done nor provided for the traffic the Company might have expected, this more especially with regard to Cotton, and with reference to a late Notification published by the Company, fixing a date after which Cotton would not be received on the North Eastern line.

3. This notice that they would not receive Cotton after the 5th May applied only to the North East line, and as there was a break at the Thull Ghaut over which their Railway was not completed, Government is of opinion the Company were quite warranted in declining to take charge of any traffic over this break to which they felt they could not do justice.

4. Last year the Company had to pay about two lacs for rain-damaged Cotton in consequence of their having to unload the Cotton, cart it for twelve miles, and reload it at places where the rain-fall is about 200 inches in four months.

5. Had the same course been followed this season a large quantity of Cotton would have been thrown on the Railway at Mulkapoor and Stations in Kandeish, and the owners would have claimed to receive in Bombay value of all that the Company could not deliver undamaged.

6. His Excellency in Council considers that the Railway Company was quite justified in refusing to accept this responsibility on an incomplete line.

7. The Railway Company may not have fully provided for all the traffic which has come upon them, but looking to what they have done and what was done before without them, the Government does not think they are guilty of the "culpable neglect" which the Chamber accuses them of in this matter.

8. In the four years 1858-59, 1859-60, 1860-61, 1861-62, the average amount of Cotton imported to Bombay otherwise than by Railway from the districts tapped by the G. I. P. Railway was 39,000 tons; in 1862-63 this was reduced to 19,000 tons. In the Calender year 1863 the G. I. P. Railway delivered 41,000 tons, they have in four months of this year carried 39,000, and are now delivering it in Bombay at the rate of 300 to 400 tons per diem.

Pages 66 and 67 Part 1. Report on external Commerce, Bombay, 1862-63.

For	1858-59	38,325 Tons.
,,	1859-60	36,945 ,,
,,	1860-61	40,601 ,,
,,	1861-62	35,564 ,,
,,	1862-63	19,480 ,,

9. His Excellency in Council observes also that this has been delivered to the Merchants at a freight charge of 2d. per ton per mile (including Ghaut cartage) while by any other transit the owner could have used the cost would, it is believed, have been at least 6d. per ton per mile.

10. Considering the low rate and the heavy charges the Railway Company became liable to for compensation, it is very probable that the Company has suffered loss by the carriage of Cotton on an incomplete line—yet Government cannot see that the mercantile community in whose interests the Chamber addresses Government could have suffered thereby.

11. As to the general charges of bad management, &c., Government consider that whatever cause may exist for them, it would be extremely difficult to show that any one person or body was fairly chargeable with blame. His Excellency in Council believes that both the Directors and the Government Officers are doing their utmost to improve matters, and that the General Manager who has out lately arrived in the country, is now earnestly labouring to effect a reform by arrangements the result of which cannot yet be fairly judged of.

12. Government has lately concurred with the Railway Company in the expediency of largely increasing the accommodation in the shape of goods sheds, &c., and of adding to the Rolling Stock, and have good reason to believe that when the Thull Ghaut is opened for traffic that the Company will be able to carry at least double the traffic on their North Eastern Line which they now can, and without incurring the risk, the loss of time and money which the break of the Ghaut now causes.

13. His Excellency in Council also hopes that before long the doubling of the line between Callian and the foot of the Ghaut, which Government recommended last November, will be undertaken, and the carrying powers of the Railway thus made more adequate to all it will be required to do.

14. Should it however still appear that even after the line is completed the exertions of an able and willing body of local Directors and of an experienced and most zealous General Manager, are not sufficient to ensure efficient working of the line, Government will be prepared to consider any specific propositions for increasing the efficiency of the traffic arrangements, whether in the way of increased accommodation

and means of conveyance or otherwise, and will gladly avail itself of the practical knowledge of members of the Chamber in considering such propositions, and if necessary in bringing them to the notice of the London Board and Secretary of State.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Most obedient Servant,
HARRY RIVERS, Lieut. Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 31st May 1864.

RESOLUTION of the Chamber of Commerce passed at their Special General Meeting of the Chamber on the 3rd May, 1864.

Proposed by A. C. Gumpert, Esq., seconded by J. L. Scott, Esq :— "That in the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce the inefficient working of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway calls for the immediate and energetic interference of Government, and that Government be addressed on the subject by the Chairman of the Chamber."

The following amendment thereon was then put by Alex. C. Brice Esq., seconded by James Bevis, Esq :—"That the Chamber of Commerce strongly urge on Government the advisability of appointing a Commission to enquire into the relation between the several departments on the Railway and to ascertain why it is so inefficiently worked."

The amendment having been negatived, Mr. Gumpert's proposition was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

APPENDIX B.

RAILWAY TERMINUS ACCOMMODATION.

No. 195 OF 1864.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

To ANDREW GRANT, Esq.,

Chairman of Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 20th instant, I am directed to forward Copy of Government Resolution, No. 2556 of 23rd December 1863, which has been issued to Railway Company and the Government Departments concerned, for the information of the Sub-Committee of the Chamber with copies of Plan.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HARRY RIVERS, Lieut. Colonel,

Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 28th January 1864.

MEMORANDUM.

Each of the Authorities whose names or official designations are noted below is to understand that the following Copy or Extract of Resolution (together with any papers that may be appended) is sent for his information, or for his information and guidance (as the case may be), and for the issue of such subsidiary orders as may appear necessary, for giving effect to the views of Government.

No. 2556 OF 1863.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

To the Secretary G. I. P. Railway Company.
„ the President Rampart Removal Committee.
„ the Revenue Department.
„ the Military Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
„ Captain J. Fuller, Royal Engineers.

Copy of the Resolution passed by Government on a letter from the Railway Company, dated 3rd instant, No. 4767, submitting copy of a Report from the Acting Chief Resident Engineer on the comparative advantages of the two sites proposed for the Company's Passenger Terminus at Bombay.

Government sanction the Passenger Terminus of the G. I. P. Railway being fixed at Mody Bay with the approach to it as shown in the Plan marked B accompanying the Railway Company's letter No. 4767 subject to any modifications which may be suggested by the Ramphrt Removal Committee, and the future arrangement of the ground in this neighbourhood.

2. The Revenue and Public Works Departments should be requested without delay to fix a site for the new Custom House East of the Station, and prepare plans and estimates.

3. Captain Fuller, Royal Engineers, is appointed the representative of Government and will in communication with Colonel Rivers make arrangements with the Railway Company and settle details with their Engineer regarding the reclamation of the Station in Mody Bay. He will determine the amount of work and expenditure that will devolve on Government in order to bring up the Station ground one foot above high water—and submit the Plan on which it is proposed to carry out the work for the final approval of Government.

(Signed) HARRY RIVERS,
Lieut. Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

(True Copies)
H. RIVERS, Lieut. Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

No. 29 OF 1864.

To the Hon. A. D. ROBERTSON,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

BY direction of the Committee, I have the honor to inform you that the Chamber of Commerce has had its attention called to the subject of Railway Terminus accommodation for Bombay, and that the matter is now under consideration by the Members. The Committee hope to be in a position to wait on the Government with the expression of the views of the Mercantile community at an early date ; meanwhile they would respectfully request that any steps which would render a change in the present contemplated arrangements impossible, may be postponed pending receipt of the representation of the Chamber.

Bombay, 17th February, 1864.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
H. BROOKE, Secretary.

No. 500 OF 1864.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT

To the SECRETARY of the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, and to communicate the following reply :—

2. The Chamber is aware that the subject of the Railway terminus has been under discussion ever since the Railway lines were first commenced. Every possible alternative known to Government has been discussed, and the general results from time to time made public by full reports of Railway Companies or otherwise.

3. The Consulting Engineer has been directed to give you or any one who may be deputed by the Chamber any information required as to what has been decided and the reasons of the decision ; and any opinion the Chamber may offer shall receive the immediate and attentive consideration of Government.

4. But I am at the same time desired to inform the Chamber, that Government is under positive engagement to the Railway company to give the ground required for their Terminus, and cannot undertake to postpone indefinitely all action on the subject, pending an expression of the views of the Chamber.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
HARRY RIVERS, Lieut. Col.,
Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 3rd March 1864.

No. 29 OF 1864.

To LIEUT COL. HARRY RIVERS,
Secretary to Government, Railway Department, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 500 of 1864, dated 3rd instant, upon the subject of Railway terminus accommodation for Bombay, and to hand you enclosed for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copy of the resolution of the Chamber, and the report of the Sub-committee to which it refers.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
H. BROOKE, Secretary.

Bombay, 8th March, 1864.

RESOLUTION of the Chamber of Commerce passed at the Special General Meeting of the Chamber on the 3rd March 1864.

Proposed by Andrew Grant, Esq., seconded by F. McIlwraith, Esq., and carried unanimously:—That with the alteration noted below in the

22nd section, the Report of the Sub-committee be adopted by the Chamber, and forwarded to the Local Government as the expression of the opinion of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce with reference to the arrangements for Railway Terminus accommodation in Bombay.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

1. Your Committee, appointed at the General meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, on 19th January, 1864, to enquire into and report on the arrangements being made by Government and the Railway Companies, with reference to Railway Terminus accommodation in Bombay, beg respectfully to report to the Chamber as follows :—

2. The Committee having ascertained on application to the Secretary to Government in the Railway department, that the Bombay government had resolved on a site for the Passenger station of the G. I. P. Railway in Mody Bay, in the immediate vicinity of the Mint buildings, proceeded to consider the desirability or otherwise of such an arrangement, as effecting the interests of the public of Bombay.

3. The Committee regret to report that they cannot approve of the plan acceded to by the Government which will perpetuate in a greatly enhanced degree all the inconveniences and annoyances which under the present temporary arrangement have become well-nigh intolerable, and which in view of the immensely increased traffic in the neighbourhood of the Bunders which a few years must witness, cannot fail to involve the most disastrous consequences to the trade of this port.

4. The Committee feel that it would be wasting the time of the Chamber to dilate on the insufferable annoyance and nuisance caused by the present G. I. P. line cutting through between the Native town and the different Bunders lining the harbour to the North of Mody Bay. No one interested in the trade of the port, no one with his eyes open who has ever happened to visit the locality during business hours, can avoid being aware of it. At every level crossing of the Railway passengers and carts, and merchandise are constantly detained; and the stoppage to traffic in this the busiest part of the Town, amounts in the aggregate to a dead-lock for more than half the working day at some of these crossings—a memo : is appended illustrative of this.

5. Independently of the direct expense and waste of time thus

caused, the indirect loss to the public is very great in the one item of enhanced cost of carriage which this forced idleness of so many carts for so large a portion of the working day involves, as this enhanced cost of carriage must react on the price of all kinds of merchandise for which carriage is used.

6. Were it the case that the greater part, or even a considerable part of the goods conveyed to Bombay by the Railway was intended for immediate shipment from one or other of the Bunders, there might be a shadow of an excuse for entailing on the public the inconveniences of placing an almost impossible barrier between the business quarter of the Town and the Wharves, but it is well-known to all connected with the trade of this place that such is not the case, and that the great bulk of the goods coming by Railway find a temporary destination, at all events, in the Warehouses scattered over the Native town.

7. It is probable that as the Trade of Bombay becomes more developed, the quantity of goods coming direct to the Bunders will largely increase, in which case it may be desirable in order to save the expense of loading and unloading, that means be provided by which loaded Trucks shall be enabled to pass from the Waree bunder goods station to one or other of the Bunders to the Southward ; but this may easily be done, as it is constantly done in England, by having a sunk line of rails running along the heads of the Bunders to be used when necessary, with slow motive power, at hours convenient for the public which is a very different matter from having a main line of the Railway intersecting the locality on which trains are constantly passing backwards and forwards, and interrupting the ordinary Road traffic.

8. The Committee are not aware in how far the Government purpose to mitigate the present evils they have adverted to by having bridges substituted for the level crossings now in use. Such bridges if provided, in sufficient numbers, would no doubt improve matters but unless the number was very great, the inconvenience to the public must continue excessive and the interruption to business and loss of time caused by the presence of the Railway would only be lessened not by any means removed.

9. The expense of making these bridges in sufficient numbers to meet the present and future exigencies of the traffic, and of providing the approaches to them, as well as the cost of the labour of taking a large proportion of the Imports and Exports of Bombay over bridges

raised eighteen feet above the level of the ground on either side, i; on what must necessarily be a very steep gradient, are considerations not to be overlooked in viewing this question.

10. The inconveniences they have enumerated appear to the Committee greatly to outweigh any possible advantages in the way of contact with the Bunders, and of the facilities the proposed plan of having the Terminus behind the Mint would give for the direct carriage of goods to the places of shipment, but it will scarcely be credited that no such facilities are contemplated by the Government. Even the possible advantage which the present temporary arrangement at Boree Bunder possesses of bringing goods nearer the heart of the Town is to be done away with, and it is only in order to provide a Passenger terminus in the Fort, that the public is to be subjected not only to all the evils already existing, but to an immense enhancement of them by the prolongation of the nuisance, and the extension of the obstruction into what must ere long be the busiest business quarter of Bombay. The Railway terminus and depôt with its branching lines and long rows of sheds, impossible to be bridged, is to be put down between the Native town, on the one side, and on the other the Custom house and the business quarter which must spring up on the reclamation at Mody bay.

11. The Committee cannot but view with regret the postponement which the plan proposed by Government must cause to the long-looked for and long-promised accommodation in the way of a spacious Custom house Quay, for dutiable goods in Mody Bay. The placing of the Railway station where it is proposed to put it must lead to the site of the Custom house Quay being fixed outside in what is now deep water, and the reclamation of such a site must be a work of years. After the Custom house accommodation has been provided it will be just behind the Railway station, and the traffic backwards and forwards to the Custom house will have to come round the end of the Terminus through the narrow streets in the vicinity of the Town barracks.

12. In addition to this, the whole of the Passenger traffic is to be poured through the already choked and too narrow streets of the Fort, while the mass of the passengers will come not from the Fort, for the benefit of the dwellers in which part of the Town above all the inconvenience is to be caused, but from the Native town, through which the Railway is to pass without accommodating the inhabitants in the lightest degree in exchange for the nuisance it subjects them to.

13. The Committee would press upon the Notice of the Chamber the urgent necessity there is, under existing circumstances, for the Chamber's taking immediate action in the matter, and strongly protesting against the decision arrived at by the Government as stated in the Resolution numbered 2,566 of 1863, dated 23rd December, 1863, copy of which is appended to this Report.

14. The plan proposed by Colonel Rivers, for placing the Passenger station of the G. I. P. Railway in the vicinity of what was formerly the Bazar gate, and not far from the present Temporary station at Boree Bunder appears to the Committee to be less objectionable in many respects than the one determined on by Government, seeing that the obstruction caused does not extend so far into the heart of the Town and would interfere much less with the access to the Custom house Quay, in Mody Bay. But when the present interruption to business caused by the line, and the great increase of Traffic consequent on the addition of some 400 acres to the available business locality outside the Railway, are considered, it appears to the Committee that such a modification of the Government plan would still result in a most serious and annoying obstruction to business, even although bridges were substituted for the present level crossings at frequent intervals along the line through the Native town.

15. A passenger Terminus in the locality proposed by Colonel Rivers, would certainly have this further advantage over the Government site that it would be somewhat nearer the great mass of the native passengers, and would be much more approachable from all directions, while at the same time, the narrow and crowded Streets of the Fort would be relieved of the traffic which would in the other case pour through them from the native quarter.

16. The Committee cannot, however, recommend to the Chamber the adoption of either of the plans they have noticed, inasmuch as both schemes retain the objectionable line of Railway running through the Town, dividing the native business portion of it from the Bunders and shipping Wharves, and, moreover, retain this merely in order to bring the Passenger station into the Fort, while neither of them proposes to utilize, as might be expected, the presence of the Bombay and Baroda line coming through Back Bay.

17. Assuming that the site for the Goods station of the G. I. P.

Railway is now irrevocably fixed at Waree-bunder on the ground reclaimed by the Elphinstone Land Company, and that locality is to be the limit of the Goods traffic, as far as the Railway is concerned at the North end of the Harbour. and that the site of the Goods station of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Company is fixed to be somewhere between the Fort and Colaba, which locality is to be the limit of the Goods traffic by Railway at the South end of the Harbour —it stands to reason that the public interest would best be consulted by giving the owners of Goods carried by either of the Railways the option of having their goods loaded or unloaded either at the North or South end of the Town. Cotton by the G. I. P. line from Oomrawutty might then be forwarded direct to Colaba. Grain from Guzerat by the B. B. & C. India line would be unloaded at Waree bunder, Goods warehoused at Colaba would be loaded there for Central India and Khandeish, and bales from the Native town would be loaded at Waree bunder.

18. To secure this advantage to the public, the two Railways should form a junction on the flats beyond Byculla, and the North and South goods Stations at Waree bunder and Colaba should be jointly occupied by both Companies.

19. With regard to further accommodation for Goods desired to be delivered or loaded at the different Bunders, the Committee consider that it would be desirable to have a sunk line of rails running across the landward end of all the different Bunders and connected with other cross lines at the discretion of the owners of each by means of which loaded trucks might be brought at convenient hours from every point of the bunders to the North goods Station.

20. As to the question of Passenger terminus accommodation, the Committee consider that the wants of the community would be better provided for than at present, while at the same time an enormous advantage to the business community would be gained, if the line of Railway from the Waree bunder to Boree bunder were to be abolished altogether, and the native town placed in immediate communication with the sea and the different Bunders and Wharfs. The two Companies should have two joint passenger Stations—the main one opposite what was formerly the Church-gate, which would be convenient for those in the Fort at Colaba, Sonapore, Calbadavie, &c.

and another at Grant-road which would be much more convenient for nearly the whole Native town than a Station in Mody Bay, and more suitable to the wants of Passengers from Malabar-hill, Breach Candy and Byculla, passengers from the Parell district would join the Trains at the junction on the Flats.

21. What forms the present line of Railway to Boree bunder should be converted into a broad arterial line of Road running from the Bazar gate, skirting the whole of the Bunders in turn, and passing along in front of the Native town. In connection with this broad Boulevard another wide Road should be made at right angles to it starting from the neighbourhood of the Musjid bunder, and running direct to the Passenger station at Grant road. These two wide thoroughfares would do an immense deal to relieve the present crowded state of the Streets in the Native Town, and to facilitate the traffic, and would, in the opinion of the Committee, be the greatest boon which the Government could well confer on the Native community, whether it be looked upon from a sanatory point of view, or with reference to the saving that would be effected in labour and cost of carriage to the trading interests of Bombay.

22. In recommending the above course, the Committee have pointed out what appears to them the best arrangement for the good of the public ; it may be that the engagements already entered into between the Government and the Railway Companies preclude the possibility of their suggestions being carried out. Should this prove to be the case, the Committee would recommend to the Chamber to urge on the Government the absolute necessity of obliging the G. I. P. Railway to bring in their Passenger line through the Native town on a high level to the site proposed by Col. Rivers, thus giving communication between the Town and the Bunders at all points underneath the Railway, which they consider the only arrangement that will render tolerable the maintenance of the present line along the front of the Native Town.

ANDREW GRANT.
W. COOPER.
A. F. WALLACE.
R. McILWRAITH.

Bombay, 3rd March 1864.

TABLE showing the times at which the Gate at the level crossing on the G. I. P. Railway, at Clare Bunder, was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m. for each day from 25th November to 1st December, Sunday excepted.

Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.		Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.	
	H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes			H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes	
Novr. 25.	9	30	9	22	2	A. M.	Novr. 26.	9	5	9	13	8	A. M.
	9	25	9	27	2			9	17	9	21	4	
	9	30	9	34	4			9	30	9	39	9	
	9	35	9	38	3			9	41	9	43	2	
	9	40	9	47	7			9	44	9	46	2	
	9	48	9	55	7			9	47	9	51	4	
	10	9	10	16	7			9	54	9	57	3	
	10	23	10	25	2			9	58	10	5	7	
	10	28	10	30	2			10	7	10	40	33	
	10	31	10	35	4			10	41	11	8	27	
	10	40	10	45	5			11	9	11	15	6	
	11	9	11	15	6			11	25	11	28	3	
	11	20	11	28	8			11	40	11	53	13	
	11	30	12	10	40	P. M		12	0	12	5	5	A. M
	12	25	12	27	2			12	7	12	10	3	
	12	30	12	31	1			12	20	12	27	7	
	12	33	12	35	2			12	48	12	51	3	
	12	48	12	51	3			12	55	1	0	5	
	1	5	1	10	5			1	18	1	20	2	
	1	12	1	20	8			1	21	1	23	2	
	1	50	1	58	8			1	24	1	25	1	
	2	0	2	2	2			1	26	1	31	5	
	2	3	2	5	2			1	35	1	42	7	
	2	12	2	18	6			1	43	1	46	3	
	2	13	2	33	3			1	52	2	5	13	
	2	40	2	45	5			2	8	2	27	19	
	2	48	2	52	4			2	30	2	38	8	
	3	5	3	10	5			2	55	3	7	12	
	3	12	3	25	13			3	9	3	13	4	
	3	27	3	35	8			3	18	3	25	7	
	3	36	3	40	4			3	26	3	40	14	
	3	49	3	53	4			3	41	3	48	7	
	4	4	4	10	6			3	49	3	50	1	
	4	20	4	23	3			3	55	4	0	5	
	4	30	4	35	3			4	2	4	6	4	
	4	45	4	51	6			4	30	5	0	30	
	5	0	5	10	10			5	1	5	11	10	
	5	20	5	39	19			5	12	5	28	16	
	Total Minutes 233							Total Minutes 314					
	or 3 hours and 53 minutes during which the Gate was closed.							or 5 hours and 14 minutes during which the Gate was closed.					

TABLE showing the time at which the Gate at the level crossing on the G. I. P. Railway, at Clare Bunder, was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m. for each day from 25th November to 1st December, Sunday excepted.

Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.		Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.	
	H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes			H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes	
Novr. 27.	9	3	9	7	4	A. M.	Novr. 28.	9	5	9	15	10	A. M.
	9	9	9	15	6			9	16	9	24	8	
	9	19	9	21	2			9	25	9	30	5	
	9	23	9	30	7			9	38	9	48	10	
	9	31	9	33	2			9	50	10	7	17	
	9	35	9	44	9			10	34	10	45	11	
	9	46	9	48	2			10	47	11	0	13	
	9	49	9	50	1			11	15	11	22	7	
	9	59	10	16	17			11	30	11	43	13	
	10	35	10	37	2			11	46	11	48	2	
	10	38	10	40	2			11	50	11	53	3	
	10	41	11	55	74			11	55	11	58	3	
	11	58	12	10	12	P. M.		12	10	12	15	5	P. M.
	12	47	12	56	9			12	40	1	4	24	
	12	58	1	10	12			1	10	1	32	22	
	1	12	1	15	3			1	35	1	45	10	
	1	35	1	45	10			2	2	2	4	2	
	1	49	1	55	6			2	5	2	6	1	
	1	57	2	3	6			2	8	2	13	5	
	2	14	2	20	6			2	42	3	5	23	
	2	26	2	33	7			3	7	3	8	1	
	2	39	3	0	21			3	10	3	13	3	
	3	15	3	25	10			3	42	3	48	6	
	3	31	3	33	2			3	50	4	35	45	
	3	36	3	48	12			4	45	4	50	5	
	4	10	4	25	15			5	0	5	10	10	
	4	29	4	40	11			5	13	5	30	17	
	4	45	4	53	8								
	4	50	5	8	18								
	5	10	5	30	20								

Total Minutes 316
or 5 hours and 16 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

Total Minutes 281
or 4 hours and 41 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

TABLE showing the time at which the Gate at the level crossing on the G. I. P. Railway, at Clare Bunder, was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m. for each day from 25th November to 1st December, Sunday excepted.

Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.		Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.	
	H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes			H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes	
Novr. 30	9	2	9	8	6	A. M.	Decr. 1	9	5	9	10	5	A. M.
	9	10	9	20	10			9	20	9	23	3	
	9	21	9	25	4			9	24	9	30	6	
	9	26	9	28	2			9	31	9	33	2	
	9	35	9	40	5			9	36	9	48	12	
	9	41	9	45	4			9	50	9	55	5	
	9	49	9	55	6			10	5	9	15	10	
	9	56	9	58	2			10	18	10	21	3	
	10	0	10	5	5			10	25	10	35	10	
	10	25	10	30	5			10	37	10	40	3	
	10	45	10	51	6	P. M.		10	45	10	47	2	
	11	1	11	13	12			10	48	10	59	11	
	11	25	11	42	17			11	5	11	11	6	
	11	45	11	55	10			11	20	11	28	8	
	11	59	12	5	6			11	35	11	45	10	
	12	7	12	14	7			11	54	12	0	6	P. M.
	12	28	12	31	3			1	5	12	10	5	
	12	33	12	44	11			12	18	12	25	7	
	12	46	12	55	9			12	26	12	27	1	
	1	10	1	20	10			12	30	12	44	14	
	1	45	2	2	17			12	55	1	10	15	
	2	5	2	7	2			1	16	1	20	4	
	2	8	2	15	7			1	25	1	28	3	
	2	30	2	45	15			1	35	1	42	7	
	2	59	3	10	11			1	48	2	0	12	
	3	14	3	25	11			2	14	2	19	5	
	3	25	3	35	10			2	25	2	35	10	
	3	37	3	55	18			2	50	2	51	1	
	4	0	4	8	8			2	55	3	2	7	
	4	15	4	25	10			3	10	3	15	5	
	4	30	4	38	8			3	18	3	21	3	
	4	45	4	49	4			3	24	3	32	8	
	4	55	5	3	8			3	37	3	55	18	
	5	13	5	20	7			4	3	4	15	12	
	5	20	5	32	12			4	20	4	30	10	
								4	35	4	46	11	
								4	50	5	1	11	
								5	10	5	25	15	
								5	28	5	31	3	

Total minutes 288 or 4 hours and 48 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

Total minutes 289 or 4 hours and 49 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

TABLE shewing the time at which the Gate at the crossing on the G.I.P. Railway at Carnac Bunder was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m. between the dates from the 23rd to 28th Nov. 1863, (Sundays excepted.)

Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.		Date.	Gate Closed.		Gate Opened.		Remain Closed.	
	H.	M.	H.	M.	minutes			H.	M.	H.	M.	Minutes	
Nov. 23	9	13	9	17	4	A.M	Nov. 24.	9	4	9	6	2	A.
	9	18	9	19	1			9	15	9	16	1	
	9	25	9	27	2			9	34	9	35	1	
	9	35	9	40	5			9	44	9	47	3	
	9	41	9	42	1			9	50	9	51	1	
	9	42	9	43	1			9	54	9	58	4	
	9	52	9	54	2			9	59	10	2	3	
	10	3	10	4	1			10	3	10	4	1	
	10	19	10	20	1			10	6	10	20	14	
	10	24	10	25	1			10	25	10	26	1	
	10	27	10	29	2			10	27	10	29	2	
	10	31	10	35	4			10	44	10	46	2	
	10	48	10	50	2			10	50	10	52	2	
	10	56	10	59	3			10	55	10	59	4	
	11	16	11	20	4			11	2	11	7	5	
	11	24	11	26	2			11	10	11	13	3	
	11	27	11	31	4			11	14	11	15	1	
	11	33	11	35	2			11	17	11	19	2	
	12	7	2	10	3	P. M.		11	43	11	46	3	
	12	23	12	27	4			12	0	12	2	2	P. M.
	1	3	1	8	5			12	12	12	14	2	
	1	14	1	15	1			12	19	12	20	1	
	1	16	1	18	2			12	29	12	31	2	
	1	19	1	24	5			1	34	1	36	2	
	1	25	1	27	2			1	37	1	38	1	
	1	34	1	38	4			1	57	2	5	8	
	1	43	1	44	1			2	15	2	17	2	
	1	50	1	52	2			2	23	2	25	2	
	1	58	1	59	1			2	34	2	39	5	
	2	13	2	14	1			2	43	2	44	1	
	2	16	2	17	1			2	51	2	54	3	
	2	18	2	19	1			2	56	2	58	2	
	2	21	2	28	7			3	30	3	31	1	
	2	30	2	35	5			4	23	4	40	17	
	2	26	2	40	4			4	45		47	2	
	2	41	2	46	5			4	49		55	6	
	2	47	2	49	2			5	5		10	5	
	2	51	3	0	9			5	17		20	3	
	3	3	3	4	1			5	23		25	2	
	3	6	3	15	9			5	27		30	3	
	3	20	3	23	3								
	3	34	3	36	2								
	3	40	3	41	1								
	3	42	3	46	4								
	3	48	3	55	7								
	4	9	4	13	4								
	4	23	4	25	2								
	4	27	4	29	2								
	4	31	4	33	2								
	4	39	4	44	5								
	5	0	5	5	5								
	5	6	5	8	2								
	5	15	5	18	3								
	5	26	5	28	2								

Total Minutes 161 or 2 hours and 41 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

Tota Minutes 127 or 2 hours and 7 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

Table showing the time at which the Gate at the crossing on the G.I. P. Railway at Carnac Bunder was closed and opened from 9 a.m. to 5½ p.m. between the dates from 23rd to 28th November 1863 (Sundays excepted).

Date	Gate Closed. H.	M.	Gate Opened. H.	M.	Remain Closed. minutes		Date.	Gate Closed. H.	M.	Gate Opened. H.	M.	Remain Closed. minutes	
Nov. 25	9	3	9	5	2	A.M.	Nov. 26	9	12	9	20	8	A. M.
	9	30	9	34	4			9	30	9	32		
	9	39	9	42	3			9	43	9	51	8	
	9	45	9	47	2			9	55	9	59	4	
	9	50	9	53	3			10	1	10	3	2	
	10	6	10	7	1			10	11	10	17	6	
	10	9	9	11	2			10	19	10	21	2	
	10	15	10	17	2			10	22	10	24	2	
	10	29	10	31	2			10	25	10	27	2	
	10	34	10	37	3			10	43	10	44	1	
	10	38	10	50	12			11	15	11	20	5	
	10	55	10	57	2			11	21	11	23	2	
	11	4	11	6	2			11	33	11	54	21	
	11	29	11	35	6			11	57	11	59	2	
	11	37	11	45	8			12	0	12	3	3	P. M.
	11	47	11	49	2			12	7	12	12	5	
	11	50	11	56	6			12	16	12	18	2	
	12	0	12	6	6	P. M.		12	20	12	23	3	
	12	7	12	11	4			12	26	12	30	4	
	12	22	12	24	2			12	35	12	37	2	
	12	26	12	28	2			12	38	12	39	2	
	12	32	12	34	2			12	44	12	46	2	
	12	40	12	42	2			1	5	1	8	3	
	12	46	12	50	4			2	3	2	4	1	
	1	13	1	23	10			2	13	2	15	2	
	1	40	1	41	1			2	20	2	25	5	
	2	11	2	15	4			2	27	2	30	3	
	2	16	2	17	1			2	32	2	34	2	
	2	20	2	25	5			2	35	2	40	5	
	2	36	2	38	2			2	52	2	54	2	
	2	40	2	41	1			2	55	2	56	1	
	2	45	2	47	2			3	24	3	29	5	
	2	52	2	53	1			3	34	3	39	5	
	2	55	2	58	3			3	41	3	54	13	
	3	1	3	6	5			3	56	3	57	1	
	3	15	3	25	10			4	2	4	18	16	
	3	30	3	34	4			4	21	4	22	1	
	3	40	3	42	2			5	1	5	5	4	
	3	52	3	55	3			5	14	5	16	2	
	4	30	4	33	3			5	17	5	19	2	
	4	50	4	51	1			5	20	5	22	2	
	5	12	5	14	2			5	23	5	24	1	
	5	16	5	17	1			5	25	5	29	4	
	5	24	5	26	2								
	5	28	5	30	2								

Total Minutes 149
or 2 hours and 29 minutes during which the Gate was closed

Total Minutes 170
or 2 hours and 50 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

TABLE showing the time at which the Gate at the crossing on the G. I. P. Railway, at Carnac Bunder, was closed and opened from 9 *a.m. to* 5½ *p.m. between the dates from* 23*rd to* 28*th November* 1863, (*Sundays excepted.*)

Date.	Gate Closed.	Gate Opened.	Remain Closed.		Date.	Gate Closed.	Gate Opened.	Remain Closed.	
	H. M.	H. M.	minutes			H. M.	H. M.	minutes	
Novr. 27.	9 18	9 22	13	A. M.	Nov. 28.	9 7	9 34	27	A. M
	9 31	9 44	3			9 44	9 46	2	
	9 57	10 0	10			9 55	9 57	2	
	10 16	10 26	3			10 20	10 24	4	
	10 34	10 37	3			10 34	10 36	2	
	10 44	10 47	2			10 45	10 53	8	
	10 48	10 50	2			10 56	11 1	5	
	10 55	10 57	2			11 3	11 4	1	
	11 0	11 2	1			11 16	11 17	1	
	11 16	11 17	4			11 24	11 25	1	
	11 27	11 31	2			11 34	11 36	2	
	11 34	11 36	3			11 42	11 43	1	
	11 40	11 43	4			11 56	11 57	1	
	11 46	11 50	1			12 16	12 18	2	P. M.
	11 52	11 53	2			2 10	2 12	2	
	11 55	11 57	2	P. M.		2 13	2 14	1	
	11 58	12 0	2			2 15	2 19	4	
	12 3	12 5	1			2 20	2 22	2	
	12 16	12 17	2			2 23	2 24	1	
	12 37	12 39	4			2 26	2 30	4	
	1 58	2 2	2			2 34	2 36	2	
	2 7	2 9	1			2 45	2 46	1	
	2 8	2 19	3			2 50	2 52	2	
	2 9	2 32	2			3 1	3 3	2	
	2 6	2 38	2			3 42	3 44	2	
	3 0	3 2	2			4 10	4 12	2	
	3 7	3 9	2			4 16	4 17	1	
	4	4 22	4			4 28	4 30	2	
	4	4 29	3			4 34	4 41	7	
	4 3	4 40	11			4 43	4 45	2	
	4 43	4 54	3			4 47	4 48	1	
	5 13	5 16	1			4 51	4 54	3	
	5 18	5 19	4			5 1	5 3	2	
	5 25	5 29				5 15	5 16	1	
						5 21	5 22	1	
						5 23	5 24	1	
						5 27	5 29	2	

Total Minutes 110
or 1 hour and 50 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

Total Minutes 107
or 1 hour and 47 minutes during which the Gate was closed.

APPENDIX C.

OVERLAND MAIL COMMUNICATION.

No. 51 OF 1864.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a Memo: of the days and hours of departure of the English and China Steamers for the year 1864, fixed by the London Post Office authorities, and sent to me for guidance.

2. These are, it will be observed, the same as those introduced in 1863, and I request to be favored with the opinions of the Chamber, after their experience of the interval that has elapsed since their introduction, on the two points adverted to in your letter No. 54, dated the 21st May 1863.

3. Whether the despatch of the China and English Steamers on the same day and hour is still felt to be attended with inconvenience, and 2nd, whether the hour of 10 A. M. for the Suez steamers, has been found on further trial preferable or otherwise to the former time 8 P. M.

4. In respect to the first, I beg to attach the sentiments of the P. & O. Company's Agent in Bombay, which are to the effect that any alteration in the despatch of the China Steamers from Bombay would interfere with their conjunction with those of Calcutta and Australia, at Galle, and would disturb the whole Mail service to the Eastward, and that the occurrence of their departure on the same day, has resulted from an advance having been made of two days in the despatch of the English Mail Steamers in deference to the representations of the Government and public of Bombay.

5. Were the China Mail Steamers despatched as you suggest, *i. e.*, two clear days after the arrival of the Suez Steamers, they would, in the generality of instances, have to leave Bombay prior to the 14th and 29th of each month. This would certainly allow the Steamers a longer time to reach Galle which they would have ample time to do before the Calcutta and Australian vessels, but there would be the disadvantage of the dates of departure from Bombay being uncertain and *not* fixed as at present.

6. I am therefore desirous of the sentiments of the mercantile community on the subject and the result of their experience of the working of the past year's system.

7. With regard to the alteration of the hours of departure of the Suez Steamer and a return to the former time of 8 P. M., I would observe that so long as there is only one through Mail train on the different Railways in this Presidency, which now brings in the Mails from all directions together at 7 A. M., the morning hour of departure will remain the most suitable to the Mofussil stations and communities in the interior, and the alteration to 8 P. M. could only be made by a further advance in the time of departure of ten hours which it is possible the P. & O. Company might not be willing to concede. Were the time of 8 P. M. reverted to without this advance there would be a loss of a day to almost all up-country correspondence.

8. The utility of the morning hour to the public in Bombay has been practically exemplified by the ascertained posting in the letter box of the General Post Office, Bombay, of 125 lbs. of mails for each Steamer between 8 P. M. on the 13th and 28th, and the closing hour of the letter boxes on the 14th and 29th, the days of the Steamer's departure.

9. Should however the Chamber still experience the inconvenience expressed in your former letter, I shall be glad to do all in my power to carry out their views and meet their wants.—I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. IMPEY,
Postmaster General.

Bombay, Postmaster Genl's. Office 9th January 1864.

Extracts paras 2, 3, and 4 of a letter No. 150 of 10th June 1863 from the Superintendent of the P. and O. Co. to the Postmaster General, Bombay.

2. In reply I have to state, that the dates of departure of the China Steamers were altered from the 16th and 31st of each month to the 14th and 29th to remedy an inconvenience felt by the mercantile community in the non-correspondence of these vessels with the Calcutta and Australian Steamers at Galle, that the dates as they now stand are only sufficient to ensure the required conjunctions at that port, and that any alteration will disturb the whole mail service to the Eastward.

3. As regards the supposition that this Company would be glad to have at least one clear day between the mails, I have to remark that I find no difficulty in preparing the two ships to start together, and that with respect to any correspondence to all ports having to be closed on the same day, a little extra exertion is all that is needed to meet it.

4. In conclusion I may add, that the present arrangement is the result of the representations of the Government and public of Bombay through the Secretary of State for India to the Post Master General of London, in deference to whose wishes the Company consented to delay the departure of the English Mails from Bombay, by two days.

(True Extracts)
(Signed) E. IMPEY,
Post Master General.

POSTAL NOTICE.

The dates of departure of the P. and O. Company's Mail Steamers during the year 1864, for Suez, will be the 14th and 29th of each month at 10 A. M., except in the monsoon months when they will start on the 9th and 24th as detailed below at the same hours.

May	24th			10 A. M.
June	9th	and	24th	Ditto.
July	9th	and	24th	Ditto.
August	9th	and	24th	Ditto.
September	9th			

The Mail Steamers for China will, as heretofore, leave Bombay on the 14th and 29th throughout the year at 9 A. M.

(Signed) E. IMPEY,
Post Master General.

Bombay Postmaster Genl's. Office, 5th January 1864.

No. 10 OF 1864.

To DR. IMPEY,
POSTMASTER GENERAL, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 51 of 1864, dated 9th instant, enclosing a memo: of the days and hours of departure of the English and China Stamers for the present year.

The closing of the Overland and China mails practically on the same evening is still found to be excessively inconvenient to the mercantile community, and the Committee would earnestly urge the re-consideration of this arrangement.

As the speed of the Steamers has been gradually accelerated, it may probably not now be found impracticable to delay the departure of the China Steamer until the evening of the present day of departure, say for instance till 6 P. M. and the closing of the mails might then be fixed at 3 or 4 P. M. Such an arrangement would only entail a delay of nine hours to the Steamers, but it would be a great relief to those whose correspondence with China is considerable.

The community appears to have accommodated itself to the early departure of the Overland Steamers, and the Committee do not think that the present arrangement is now generally disliked.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 25th January, 1864.

No. 68 OF 1864.

To DR. IMPEY,
POSTMASTER GENERAL, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to draw your attention to the inconvenience

sustained by the public in consequence of the Post Office notices being inserted only in the *Government Gazette*, a paper published only weekly, and therefore quite unsuited to the dissemination of information which the public requires from day to day.

The Committee would therefore respectfully suggest that all Post Office notices, but more especially those referring to mail packets per steamers and sailing vessels should be advertised in the daily papers. The expense would probably be covered by the increased number of letters carried, but even if this were not the case, the convenience to the public at large would appear to justify a reasonable amount of expenditure in this direction.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 6th June 1864.

No. 1632 of 1864.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—In reply to your letter No. 68, dated the 6th ultimo, I have the honor to state that the practice observed by the Bombay Post Office, with respect to giving the public the earliest intimation of the departure of Steam Packets, and sea-going mails from Bombay, is to send round circulars to the different mercantile and shipping firms soliciting information, and upon its being obtained, notices are immediately prepared and sent to the Editors of the different daily papers for insertion, but not as advertisements as a prohibition to this effect exists from the Government of India and Secretary of State on the following grounds submitted by the Director General of the Post Office, viz. "that neither in England or elsewhere has it been customary to send as advertisements notices regarding postal matters such as rates of postage, departure of Mails and other ordinary postal arrangements of a public character which the interests of newspaper proprietors would necessarily induce them to publish as items of intelligence, more especially as proprietors of papers find it their interest to publish whole pages of General orders, and Government orders many of which can have no possible interest to any

one but the individuals concerned, and it must be their interest to publish the substance of postal notices affecting as they do a considerable number of their subscribers."

I regret, therefore, that it is out of my power to meet the suggestion of the Chamber to advertise *all* public notices or the notices specially mentioned in your letter, in the daily papers.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. IMPEY,
Postmaster General.

Bombay, Postmaster General's Camp, 5th July 1864.

No. 72 OF 1864.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 15th June 1864.

To E. IMPEY, Esq.,
Postmaster General, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to bring to your notice the following Postal Notice, dated 5th instant, informing the public that the *latest safe hour* for posting letters by Overland Mail would be 7 A. M.

POSTAL NOTICE.

The public are informed, that the *latest safe hour*, for posting letters for the next Overland Mail, under contract to leave Bombay on the morning of the Instant, will be the at . M.

(Signed) T. GARRETT,
Postmaster of Bombay.

Bombay, Post Office, 1864.

POSTAGE.

Via Marseilles ½ oz.....	0	6	8
Ditto 1 oz.....	0	13	4
Via Southampton ½ oz...	0	4	0
Ditto 1 oz.....	0	8	0

Thirteen annas and four pies being added for every additional ounce or fraction thereof for letters via Marseilles, and eight annas for every ounce on letters via Southampton.

N. B.—The next Mail from England is due in Bombay on the

The Committee of the Chamber are at a loss to understand what is meant by the intimation, seeing that in the *Government Gazette* a notice is inserted that late letters will be received up to 8 o'clock. Thus the public are warranted in believing that letters are in time for the Mail up to 8, but on the other hand the notice in question would lead them to suppose that there is a possibility of letters posted after seven being too late. As it is of the utmost consequence that there should be no room for doubt on such an important question, and that the public should know at what hour the Post Office closes for the mail with a certainty of letters going forward, the Committee would suggest that the Postal authorities fix an hour, as late as possible, at which the box is to be closed, and that all letters posted before that hour should go by the mail for certain, while all posted after the hour fixed should be retained as "too late."

Any uncertainty in such a matter is calculated to cause endless inconvenience to all concerned.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

No. 1609 of 1864.

To the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter No. 72, dated the 15th ultimo, and to express my concurrence with you of the obscurity of the wording of the Post Master of Bombay's notice regarding the hour of closing the Overland Mails for despatch by the P. & O. Company's Steamers.

2nd. Manifestly the *latest safe* hour for the receipt of letters cannot be any earlier than the latest fixed hour at which the Post Office professes to receive them.

3rd. The notice will be corrected so as to have no room for misapprehension.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. IMPEY,
Postmaster General.

Bombay, Post Master General's Camp, 4th July 1864.

APPEDNIX D.

ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

No. 845 OF 1864.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

To the SECRETARY to the BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—With reference to the Correspondence ending with my letter No. 1977, dated the 19th December 1862, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to request that you will move the Chamber to state whether the working of the Bombay Electric Telegraph Department has, during the last twelve months, improved, and whether any of the grounds of complaint alluded to in your communications marginally quoted have since been removed.

Letter No. 128 dated the 14th October 1862.
Letter No. 140 dated the 20th Nov. 1862.
Letter No. 147 dated the 1st Dec. 1862.

—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. ROBERTSON,
Secretary to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 5th May 1864.

No. 65 OF 1864.

A. D. ROBERTSON, Esq.,

Secretary to Government, Bombay,

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.

845 of 1864, dated 5th inst. enquiring whether any of the grounds of complaint alluded to in the Chamber's representations of 14th Oct. 20th Nov., and 1st December 1862, had been removed.

Your enquiry has been circulated to the Members of the Chamber, who are unanimously of opinion that the working of the Telegraph Department is still so bad as seriously to affect its usefulness; the delay and irregularity in the delivery of messages are as great as ever, but there is some improvement in the rendering and spelling, and messages are now seldom received in an unintelligible form or with serious errors.

While on this subject the Committee would draw the attention of Government to the withdrawal of the right of precedence previously enjoyed by the mercantile messages of the Chamber on condition of their being made public; the effect of this change has been to render the messages of the Chamber nearly valueless, as they now appear to be purposely delayed till, in almost every case, twelve hours, and in numerous instances twenty-four hours have elapsed since receipt of the messages by the Press.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 27th May 1864.

No. 1459 OF 1864.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

To the SECRETARY to the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, Bombay.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 65, dated the 27th May last, stating, as the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, that the working of the Telegraph Department is so bad as seriously to affect its usefulness, I am directed to request that the Chamber will have the goodness to support their opinion, if possible, by facts, but if they are not now able to quote particular instances of irregularity, carelessness and delay, they may again address Government on the subject after 1st October next.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. E. JACOMB,
Offg. Under Secretary to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 22nd August 1864.

From C. A. LAWSON, Esq.,

Secretary Madras Chamber of Commerce.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am desired to hand you a copy of a letter that has been addressed by the Chairman of this Chamber to the Government of India, respecting the irregularities in the Telegraphic communication between this and Bombay, and to request you to lay it before your Committee, and solicit their attention to the increasing inefficiency of the Government Telegraph Department.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) C. A. LAWSON,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Madras, 18th August 1864.

From H. TOLPUTT, Esq.,

Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras.

To the SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT.

Home Dept., Govt. of India, Simla.

SIR,—I have the honor, by desire of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, to bring to the notice of the Supreme Government the increasing inefficiency of the Electric Telegraph Line in Southern India, and on behalf of the mercantile community of this Presidency, to respectfully solicit some modifications of the present system upon which the Government Telegraph Department is conducted. The subject cannot have escaped the notice of H. E. the Viceroy and Governor General, and the local Government being powerless to effect any reforms such as are needed, it is confidently hoped that the representations of the Chamber may meet with that prompt attention which the public at large consider has not hitherto been shewn to the frequent complaints that have reached the Director General of Telegraphs.

2. The line between Bombay and Madras is seldom in good order for more than a week at a time, and it is a remarkable fact, highly suggestive of fraudulent dealings, that immediately after the arrival of the Mail Steamer at Galle or Bombay, the

line of communication is interrupted, and often remains so for two and even three days. I am well aware of the great difficulty that must present itself to the discovery of the persons who are chargeable with these misdemeanours, and that during the existing crisis in Bombay, extraordinary temptation is offered to unprincipled speculators to bribe the subordinate officials in the Telegraph Department in such a way as protects them from penal consequences. The regularity of these interruptions is so marked that this Chamber has no hesitation in attributing most of them to wilful acts on the part of the officials alluded to, and it therefore seems very advisable that the evil be at once investigated by the Government. The subordinate officials in the Telegraph Department are in receipt of very small and slowly progressive salaries, and as the chances of promotion are but few, and a disposition has been shewn by the Government of India to appoint as Directors of Circles members of the Army Staff Corps, a general feeling of dissatisfaction prevails in the Department, and respectable and intelligent youths are hindered from entering the service, or if in it are easily prevailed upon to throw it up, and apply themselves to other pursuits, which offer better prospects. So much responsibility is placed on these subordinate officials, that it should be good policy to pay them liberally, and then a better class of men would offer themselves for service, and the public would not be victimised as it now is. The delay that occurs in discovering the cause of interruptions appears to the Chamber to prove that the number of Inspectors on the line is insufficient for the duty to be performed.

3. It does not appear necessary to trouble you with a list of messages despatched from and to Bombay, to prove my assertion that only on very rare occasions do they arrive at their destination within 24 hours, but rather may two or three days be said to be the rule. Between this and Cochin the messages frequently arrive an hour or two after letters despatched on the same date as the telegrams, and between Calicut and Cochin the line appears to be in a chronic state of interruption, although repeatedly inspected by the local officers in charge. No confidence is placed in the telegraph generally speaking, and mercantile operations are confused, delayed, or altogether prevented by the uncertainty that now attends the despatch of a message to the other Presidencies. Thus the

telegraph is less employed than would be the case were its efficiency permanently maintained, and the revenue derived by Government from this source is very much affected in consequence.

4. To strengthen the hands of the officers in charge of Circles and to aid the public in arriving at some satisfactory explanation of the cause of the delay of messages, the Chamber would again respectfully urge the establishment of Complaint Offices for each Circle, to which representations may be made, and from which information may be obtained. The Complaint Office at Calcutta cannot possibly institute such prompt, diligent, and satisfactory enquiries into complaints of miscarriages in this Presidency as a local office could do, and the present system seems not only cumbrous in practice, but wrong in principle. After the lapse of three days the sender of a message can obtain no information regarding it from the Office of despatch, and the merchant at Tuticorin has to apply to Calcutta for the stereotyped reply that an enquiry will be made, and the complainant communicated with should anything be discovered. The expense attending the establishment of these additional Complaint Offices would undoubtedly contribute materially to the better working of the Lines.

5. Collectively and individually the members of this Chamber contribute a large sum annually towards the support of the Telegraph Department, and it is hoped that this circumstance will weigh with H. E. the Viceroy and Governor General when considering the advisability of the reforms I have suggested.—I have, &c.,

(Signed) H. TOLPUTT,
Chairman.

The following is the reply from the Secretary to the Government of India, to the complaint of the Madras Chamber of Commerce :—

From E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To H. TOLPUTT, Esq.,
Chairman, Madras Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 19th ultimo, and in reply to state that the subject of it will receive the careful consideration of Government.

2. You have correctly assumed, that the complaints regarding the defective working of the Electric Telegraph, have not escaped the notice of Government, and I am to state that on the 10th of July a letter was addressed to the Director General, calling his serious attention to the matter, and inviting him to suggest any measures which he might consider likely to promote the practical efficiency of the Department.

3. Adverting to the 3rd para. of your letter, I am desired to say that it can never be superfluous, but on the contrary is highly desirable, that general representations of the inefficiency of the Telegraph Department should be supported by specific proof, and I am therefore to request that you will now, if practicable, furnish me with a list of the messages passing to and fro between Madras and Bombay, or between Madras and Cochin—which within the last four months have either been unduly delayed in transit, or have been received in an unintelligible or seriously mutilated form. The statement should of course also mention, if possible, the total number of messages despatched and received within the same period by the same parties.

4. The specific point which forms the subject of your 5th para. has recently come under the consideration of Government, and I am desired to forward for your information, copy of a letter which has been sent to the Director General regarding it. On receiving that Officer's report, no time will be lost in coming to a decision, whether local complaint offices can be expediently established or not.—I have, &c. &c.,

(Sigdned) E. C. BAYLEY.

Simla, Sept. 7.

From E. C. BAYLEY, Esq.,

Secretary to the Government of India.

To the DIRECTOR GENERAL OF TELEGRAPHS, IN INDIA.

SIR,—The attention of the Governor General in Council has been recently drawn to instances of delay in the transmission of messages between places in the same Division, and to the question of establishing local offices of complaint.

2. The Government has already expressed concurrence in the views contained in the first paragraph of your letter noted in the margin, in which you shewed the necessity for the abolition of the local Examiners of the scrutiny of messages in Bombay and Madras, and the Governor General in Council is clearly of opinion that such offices, so far as the scrutiny of general messages is concerned, are of little use, and that the work can be far better done at a Central Office.

No. 893, 15th February, 1864.
No. 2316, 28th December 1861.

3. But, as regards local messages, the Governor General in Council would wish you to consider whether some *modification* of the present system might not possibly be adopted with advantage, especially in respect of the satisfaction which it would afford to the community by the greater facility with which complaints might be preferred. The establishment of local Complaint offices for purely local messages would not perhaps, be open to the same objections which apply to local Complaint offices extending their scrutiny generally to all messages. For instance in the case of a person at Bombay having occasion to complain regarding a message sent to Kurrachee or to Indore, there does not seem any reason why the local Telegraph Officers should not at once dispose of the complaint without the necessity of a reference to Calcutta.

4. I am therefore directed to invite your consideration of some such modification of the present system as that suggested, and to request that you will report your views upon the matter at an early date.—I have, &c. &c.,

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY.

Simla, Aug. 7.

APPENDIX E.

COTTON CULTIVATION.

To the CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

DEAR SIR,—As I presume the Chamber of Commerce is aware of my recent appointment as Cotton Commissioner, I shall feel obliged if you will be so good as to inform the Members of the Chamber, that it will afford me much pleasure to hold communication with them on all matters connected with the Cotton interests of this country and also to afford them every aid and assistance in my power, towards forwarding those interests.—I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

(Signed) G. F. FORBES.

Bombay, 14*th October* 1863.

No. 110 OF 1863.

To DR. FORBES,

Cotton Commissioner, Bombay.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note of 14th instant, intimating your desire to co-operate with the Chamber in all matters connected with the Cotton interests of this country, I am directed by the Committee to suggest that it might be convenient and agreeable to you to meet the Members of the Chamber in a Public Meeting to be held for the purpose of hearing your views on the subject of Cotton Cultivation in this Presidency at an early date ; any day this week except Wednesday which is a public holiday, would be convenient to the Members of the Chamber.—I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 19*th October* 1863.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR,—On my return from Poona on Saturday, I had the pleasure of receiving your letter, dated the 19th instant.

Whilst thanking the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce for their courteous proposal to hold a public meeting for the purpose of hearing my views on the subject of Cotton Cultivation in this Presidency, I beg to state my impression that such a measure would only tend to occupy the time of the Chamber unnecessarily, as all my views on the above subject have already been made public in various printed Reports.

Should there, however, be any special question under the consideration of the Chamber—or on any general measure contemplated on which my opinion or co-operation can be of service, I shall be at all times very happy to hear from you.—I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

(Signed) G. F. FORBES.

Bombay, 26th October 1863.

EXPERIMENTAL CULTIVATION IN DHARWAR.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—We enclose a copy of a letter lately addressed by Mr. John Fleming to the Cotton Supply Association with details of some interesting experiments in the improved cultivation of Native Compta Cotton as compared with the ordinary mode of cultivation as followed by the Ryots in the Southern Mahratta country, and which will doubtless be interesting to the Members of the Chamber of Commerce. We also enclose Extract from a letter from Messrs. Nicol, Duckworth and Co., Liverpool, in reference to a sample of yarn spun from Broach Cotton grown in the Dharwar districts from seed distributed by us and cultivated in the ordinary way. The Cotton from which this yarn was spun was sold in Liverpool on the 26th April at 23*d.* per lb. the quotation for "Fair" Broach being 21*d.* and "Fair" Dhollera 21½*d.* per lb. —We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

(Signed) W. NICOL AND Co.

Bombay, 6th August 1864.

EXPERIMENTS IN COTTON AGRICULTURE.

18, Leadenhall Street, London, 5th Dec. 1863.

To ISSAC WATT, Esq.,

Secretary to the Cotton Supply Association.,

DEAR SIR,—The samples of cotton handed to you and referred to in your note of the 2nd instant, are of the description commonly known as Compta, and represent some cotton which was grown for me as an experiment in the neighbourhood of Dharwar.

Strange though it may appear, many, andamongst these men of considerable experience, have denied the possibility of improving the system of cotton cultivation pursued by the Indian ryot, alleging that it is better adapted to the peculiarities of the country, its soil and climate than any other, and that neither an increase of yield, nor an improvement of quality can be looked for from a change. Holding a totally different opinion, my object in making the experiment referred to was to obtain facts bearing on the question, and the result is so satisfactory, and has, in my opinion, so important a bearing on the subject of cotton supply from India, that I venture to submit a somewhat detailed account of the experiment.

Messrs. Robertson and Everitt who were established in the Southern Mahratta country as cotton agents, very kindly undertook to conduct the experiment for me, and having considerable experience as agriculturists, and being themselves interested in the subject, it would have been difficult to have placed it in better hands. Their successors, Messrs. Robertson Brothers report on the 4th June last the result of the experiment as follows :—" The experiment was conducted on 33 acres of land, twenty-two of which were ploughed with an English plough, harrowed, manured, and drilled according to the English system. The 11 acres were ploughed and prepared precisely after the native fashion.

" The produce of the 22 acres was 387 maunds of 28lbs, each ; and of the 11 acres 73 maunds, or $17\frac{3}{5}$ maunds per acre as the produce of the 22 ; and $6\frac{2}{4}$ maunds per acre, of the 11 acre field. The result would have been much more satisfactory, but unusually heavy rains prevailed throughout the Southern Mahratta country just at the time when cotton was ripening, and a very large number of the pods never ripened at all. The heavy rains took more effect on the produce of the small field, as the crop was more backward than that of the other. The kuppas of the 22 acres is of much finer quality in every

way, and we think the experiment may be regarded as a very successful one. You will notice a good deal of earth has got mixed with the kuppas ; this was during the heavy rains, which washed the black soil up into the plants. Had we had time, we should have beaten this earth out of it, but we were so pressed for time, to get it off before the roads were closed, owing to the lateness of the season, that we were obliged to send it forward as it was. There were some 30 maunds, in addition to the above, picked after the rest had gone, and this we sold at the current rate, viz., Rupees ¾ per maund. We were offered a very fancy price for this kuppas before it was picked, but of course declined any offers to purchase.

For convenience in further referring to the fields and their produce, I shall distinguish them as English and Native. Apportioning the 30 maunds which Messrs. Robertson Brothers say were gathered after the despatch of the bulk of the crop between the two fields, it appears the English field yielded about 411 maunds, or 11,508lbs. of kuppas, and the Native 79 maunds or 2,212lbs.

The kuppas has been forwarded to this country, and is now in course of being ginned by Messrs. Platt Brothers.

We find that the English kuppas yields 1 part of fibre to 2·27 parts of seed, and the native kuppas one part of fibre to 2·71 parts of seed or 1¾ per cent. in favour of the former.

It thus appears that the English field has yielded 3,508lbs. clean cotton, and the Native 635lbs. or at the rate of 159lbs. per acre for the former and 58lb. for the latter.

It may be suggested that this result was obtained by extravagant outlay, but this is not the case, although the experiment was undertaken to establish a physical fact, and no special injunction to economise was given, yet the cost of producing this cotton was a trifle less than 4*d.* per lb. More than one-fourth of this cost was for rent of land, and it must be borne in mind that an isolated small experiment of this kind, against which has to be charged cost of implements, loss in resale of cattle, and many other similar exceptional items, must be attended with much greater expense than ordinary farming operations. I have not said anything regarding the quality of the two lots of cotton, as you have the samples, and can therefore judge. I should like, however, to learn your opinion of them. Having been sent home in a loose state their condition as regards colour and strength of staple is much inferior to what it would have been if carefully cleaned and

packed in India. I cannot but regard the result of this experiment as most important, and as indicating that we must look for an increased supply of cotton from India rather to the improvement of the cultivation than its extension.

I should add, that the seed used in this case was the ordinary native seed of the Southern Mahratta country, and was not specially selected. My firm belief, however, is that by carefully selecting seed, and continuing the system of selection for a series of years, an immense improvement in the quality of the indigenous varieties of cotton in India would result, and I would suggest that large experiments should be made in this line.

I believe that with care and proper treatment, such exotic varieties of cotton as New Orleans, Peruvian, and Egyptian may be successfully introduced into almost any part of cotton growing India; but in the first instance, before acclimatised, these exotics will no doubt prove delicate. Hybridising with the native varieties will probably produce a hardier stock, and here, again, there is a vast field for useful experiment.

I take the opportunity of mentioning that I have advice from our correspondent at Ferozepore, in the Punjaub, that the natives have this year succeeded in producing a marketable quantity of cotton from Egyptian and New Orleans seed, and that he feels quite certain that ere long these descriptions will entirely supersede the short stapled local variety, known in this market as Sind.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) JOHN FLEMING.

Extract.

We enclose for your satisfaction a small sample of yarn No. 30s. spun out of the 2½ Bales Dharwar Broach Cotton per *Canova*.

The Spinner (and he is a man who thoroughly understands his business) in writing to our Brokers says:—

"I consider it equal to most Orleans Cottons, and would like some more of it." We fancy ourselves that the quality would be run upon if here, as the color is so alike to American.

(Signed) NICOL, DUCKWORTH & Co.

Liverpool, 2nd June 1861.

EXPERIMENTAL CULTIVATION IN KHANDEISH.

TO THE SECRETARY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to send you a sample of cotton grown on my land at Kunnoor in Kandeish, from New Orleans seed, sown three years ago. This sample is the first picking of this, the third season, and the plants are as large and strong as those seen in Egypt, with a more than average quantity of bolls. The crop is grown on red soil and has been kept carefully weeded.

The slight reddish tinge is, I think, owing to a blight which has prevailed, more or less, throughout Kandeish for the last two seasons. Its want of silkiness may be attributed to the age of the plant.

I shall be glad if you will favor me with your opinion of this sample and its value in Bombay. At Kunnoor and Hutnoor in its vicinity, I have cleared over one thousand acres of land superior to that producing this crop, and, should the sample be pronounced well on, I purpose growing a large crop.

If you have any Sea Island, Egyptian, or New Orleans (not Dharwar grown) seed, I hope the Chamber will let me have as much as it can spare.—Address care of J. H. Openshaw, Esq.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) WILLIAM A. KERR.

Bombay, 25th January 1864.

No. 14 OF 1864.

W. A. KERR, Esq,

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25th ultimo.

The sample of cotton sent appears more like Egyptian than New Orleans cotton, but is of very good quality; the slight stain not being of any great consequence. Its present value in the English market would be about equal to that of middling Orleans, if produced in sufficient quantity to entitle it to be regarded as a mercantile article. Small lots of cotton do not fetch their full value. If the American War continues you might expect to obtain something over 2*s*. per lb. if the quality were uniform and as well cleaned as the sample. The value in Bombay is now about Rs. 700 per candy.

The Chamber has no foreign seed on hand, but as it is found that the fresher the seed the more prolific the plant; you will probably find it to your interest to sow all the seed you have grown on your own land. I would, however, recommend you to try some of the Dharwar grown seed, as the crop per acre is larger than that from Egyptian seed, and it is not so liable to suffer from bug.—I remain, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 3rd February 1864.

COTTON ADULTERATION, ACT IX OF 1863.

No. 3403 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward for any remarks which the Chamber of Commerce may wish to favor Government with, copies of the reports noted in the margin on the subject of the measures to be taken for bringing into operation Bombay Act No. IX of 1863 for the prevention of adulteration of cotton, and the better suppression of frauds in the cotton trade in the Presidency.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Report by the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, No. 2100 dated 15th August 1863.
Ditto. by the Revenue Commissioner N. D. No. 2591, dated 7th September 1863.
Ditto. by the Revenue Commissioner S. D. No. 3118, dated 21st September 1863 with accompaniment.

(Signed) J. RICHEY
Officiating Under Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 5th October 1863.

No. 2100 of 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs.

To the HON. A. D. ROBERTSON,

Secretary to Government.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following remarks on the measures to be adopted for bringing into operation within the Town and Island of Bombay Act IX of 1863 for the prevention of adulteration of cotton, as requested in your letter No. 2446 of the 24th ultimo.

2. There are at present four Companies as per margin in the Town of Bombay for pressing cotton for exportation, who have amongst them eight buildings in which the Presses are worked, situated chiefly in the Fort and at Colaba Presses by other Companies are in course of erection, such as the Elphinstone Land and Press Company, Victoria Land and Press Company, and the Bombay Press Company, but none of these are as yet regularly in operation.

Fort	Press	Company.
Colaba	Do.	Do.
Apollo	Do.	Do.
Hydraulic	Do.	Do.

3. The number of cotton bales now annually exported from Bombay varies from nine hundred thousand to a million: the greater portion of which are pressed by the Companies first mentioned, and no building turns out less than from two to three hundred bales per diem, while the average is often considerably more.

4. As all cotton for exportation must come to one or other of the above Presses, and as a great portion of it on arrival is stowed on the Colaba Cotton Green, the main check must be at these places.

5. Such check can be exercised in two ways, by having an Inspector at each Press building whose duty would be to remain there in constant supervision over the work performed under the control of an Inspector in Chief or by merely having one Inspector for the whole Town to whom a large salary should be allowed and by whose energy and judicious application of time such a personal check over the proceedings at the Presses and on the Green would be exercised as adequately to secure the objects of the Act.

6. I beg to recommend the adoption of the latter plan, it is not desirable greater scrutiny should be exercised over the proceedings of the Press Companies than is absolutely necessary, for it would be extremely disagreeable to these Companies to work under a system of perpetual Government supervision, moreover for obvious reasons it would be necessary to pay the Inspectors at very high rates and the burden thereby placed upon the "Cotton Improvement Fund" and hrough it, upon the Trade, would be severe, on the other hand, one well paid active and intelligent Inspector who enjoyed the confidence of Government might, by so distributing his visits amongst the several localities concerned, exercise a supervision adequate for all practical purposes, and such as would be scarcely perceived by the Press Companies, he would further receive ready co-operation from all the principal Mercantile Firms, and the assistance so derived would alone enable him to dispense with a paid staff of subordinates.

7. I have accordingly to suggest that should the above view be approved by Government, the salary of the Bombay Inspector be fixed for the present at Rupees fifteen hundred per mensem, and could Captain T. D. Kerr of the 6th Regiment N. I., now employed in North Canara, be spared from his duties and nominated to the post, I believe the appointment would secure the confidence of the entire mercantile community.

8. The Inspector should further be provided with one clerk at Rupees Fifty per mensem and ten peons at Rupees 7½ each, the latter would be required as messengers and for guarding seized cotton until made over to the Police.

9. The fee to be levied upon each bale of cotton exported from Bombay to any foreign port might be safely fixed as a commencement at two annas per bale, which, with an average out-turn of about 9,50,000 bales would yield an estimated revenue of Rupees 1,18,750 per annum, and upon this sum principally would fall the expences of the Act for the whole Presidency, as the exports to foreign places from the Continental ports are insignificant—the fee must of course be levied at the Custom House, and I would request the authority of Government to my appointing such additional clerks to the regular establishment as may from time to time be required on this account—Rupees 100 or Rupees 150 per mensem would probably more than than meet this charge.

10. It will be indispensable that the Inspector reside either at Colaba or in the Fort, and his Head office should be in the Town Custom House or in the Fort Police Office—the former probably may be considered the least ominous of the two buildings.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Custom's House 15th August 1863.

No. 2591 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The Hon. A. D. ROBERTSON,
Secretary to Government.

SIR,—In reply to your letter No. 2647 of the 24th July last, I beg to submit the following opinions of the Collectors whom I consulted.

Measures for bringing into operation the Bombay Act IX of 1863 for the prevention of adulteration of cotton, &c.

2 Mr. Ashburner states :—

* * * "as no proceedings can be "taken under the Act to prevent "the adulteration of cotton except by summons or information laid "by the Inspector or some other person, the "first step must be to appoint an Inspector "and a competent staff of Assistants. The "Inspector should be a European Commissioned Officer if possible"* *

Khandesh No. 1234 dated 26th Aug. 1863.

"There are as yet no Cotton Presses in Khandesh, the East India "Cotton Company are now building Presses—when these are in work-"ing order, it will be necessary for the Inspector to exercise an active "supervision over them. An Inspector with two Assistants on the "pay of a first class Mamlutdar and a dozen peons would be sufficient "for Khandesh. After the first year if a few severe examples are "made, this Establishment might be much reduced."

3. Mr. Ravenscroft states :—"The first thing to be done is to "carry out the clauses of the Act ruling that "no Cotton Presses are to be established or "worked, without the requisite license. A

Surat No. 543 dated 3rd August 1863.

"general notice might therefore be issued and carefully promulgated "throughout the Collectorates where cotton is pressed, clearly laying "down that after a certain date any one using or establishing an "unlicensed press would be punished as the law directed."

"The fact as to whether a person was working a press or not is one "that could be easily established, and with difficulty concealed. I "think, therefore, that the general notice before mentioned would have "the effect of inducing every cotton presser to obtain a license."

"The next point to settle is more difficult, namely, how to prevent "the compression of adulterated or deteriorated cotton. Of course "this can only be done by the appointment of Inspectors; and the "prevention of the disgraceful state of the present cotton market is "therefore entirely dependent on their energy and honesty. After "much thought on the subject I am of opinion that a new and "separate class of Inspectors should not be appointed, but that the "officers whose names I will hereafter mention should in addition to "their other duties, take their share in preventing the continuance of "a fraudulent system as shortsighted as it is injurious."

"The Superintendents of Police, the Assistant Superintendents of "Police, the Mamlutdars and District Foujdars should be made inspec- "tors under the Act. They should each be furnished by the Collector "with a list of the licensed Presses within their respective charges; "and be directed at unexpected times and seasons, to pay visits of "inspection to these presses. The Patels of villages where Presses "were licensed should also be directed to ascertain if any adulterated "or deteriorated cotton was offered there for compression or sale; "and ordered to report the matter to the nearest Inspector at once; "or be held responsible for any failure of justice

"The above plan I would prefer to the nomination of new and "untried officers for many reasons.

"1. "The duty is of a delicate nature, and should be carried out "with tact and temper, two requisites more likely to be found in "public officers of standing, than in untried novices.

"2 "The duty is one where bribes are almost sure to be offered, "and in cases where this is the case, it is better that the temptation "should be met by those who have reputation and pension at stake, "than by new hands, on whom the Government have no hold but "the Penal Code.

3. "The employment of numerous new officers on duties which "can as well be performed by existing establishments is an unneces- "sary expenditure of the public money.

"I do not gather from the act that the Inspectors are restricted "from filling other posts under Government.

4. "Mr. Hope states:—* * * I would propose that I should call by "proclamation on all owners of Presses "to apply for licenses and lodge their "pattern press marks, and then is- "sue licenses as appear fitting. I fear that much inconvenience "will be caused by the necessity for renewing these in January, in "the middle of the season."

Ahmedabad, No. 575, dated 11th August 1865.

"Three Inspectors will apparently be required, one for this place "who might also perform the duty of "weighing Opium, one for Dhollera and "one for Gogo. I would strongly recom- "mend that all three should be Europeans. "The duty at Gogo might perhaps be undertaken by Mr. Auding."

Vide Government Resolution, No. 2488, of 23rd July 1863, Revenue Department.

5. I think that the most important thing is to give as wide a circulation as possible to the provisions of the Act, and that a large number of copies of the translation in the vernacular should be sent to the Collectors as has already been done in Ahmedabad on the suggestion of Mr. Hope.

6. A notice should forthwith be issued by the Collectors as proposed by Messrs. Ravenscroft and Hope, calling on all owners of Presses to comply with the requirements of the Act. There is no doubt that every one owning a Press will attend to the notice.

7. With regard to the appointment of Inspectors, I am of opinion that it would not be a wise measure to appoint a separate Department with a large subordinate staff; until it is seen by experience that there is work for a separate agency. It is far better to secure the cordial co-operation of the existing establishments by appointing the Mamlutdars and Foujdars *ex-officio* Inspectors, with an increase of salary according to their efficiency.

8. The Collectors will, if this be approved, send in a list of the Talookas in which the Mamlutdars and Foujdars should be so appointed, and if Government will favor me with an estimate of the proceeds likely to be realized under the Act, and state how much thereof may

be allotted to Guzerat and Khandeish, I will in consultation with the Collectors, determine how the remuneration should be apportioned.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) B. H. ELLIS,
Revenue Commissioner, N. D.

Poona, 7th September 1863.

No. 3118 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the Revenue Commissioner Southern Division,

To the Secretary to Government.

SIR,—I have hitherto delayed replying to your letter No. 2448, dated 24th July 1863, in hopes of being able, before submitting my opinion as required, on the measures advisable for bringing into operation the Bombay Cotton Frauds Act No. IX of 1863, to obtain the advice of Dr. Forbes, for which I was desirous, not only because of his natural sagacity and his peculiar experience of the causes of the evils which the Act aims at obviating, but also because of his recent extended opportunities for ascertaining, by personal intercourse with members of the Firms of Manufacturers and others, whose interests are likely to be affected by the Act, the manner in which it may be sufficiently worked, with the least avoidable hardship to individuals.

2. I am now able to lay before Government the annexed interesting letter from Dr. Forbes, dated 12th instant, in which he states his opinion on the point which they have under consideration, and others connected with it.

3. With reference to the 11th paragraph of Dr. Forbes's letter, I beg to state, that I have requested all the Collectors of the Southern Division to spare no expense necessary to make the provisions of the Bombay Cotton Frauds Act thoroughly known as soon as possible throughout their Districts. It had, however, been previously promulgated in the usual manner.

4. In his 13th paragraph Dr. Forbes proposes the passing of a special enactment for permitting a certain stock of cotton to pass into the market under such a brand that it may be distinguished as cotton which is of *mixed* sorts. I think that under the circumstances men-

tioned by Dr. Forbes, this is a measure required by equity, provided the proposed indulgence be allowed only in the case of cotton of mixed sorts not otherwise objectionable as having been adulterated or deteriorated by the admixture of uncleaned cotton, or seed, or of dirt, or other foreign matter.

5. I would also advocate the extension of the same indulgence, under similar limitation, to this year's crop now coming to maturity. It would be hard to confiscate, or otherwise treat as wholly contraband cotton not otherwise adulterated, which has become mixed as regards species in the manner, and from the causes explained in Dr. Forbes 14th paragraph. I would not, however, extend the indulgence here proposed to any future year's crop, or to cotton kept over the ensuing season; with respect to which the explanatory warning proposed in Dr. Forbes 16th paragraph for the crop of the present year might, if at once issued, be fairly acted on.

6. Before leaving this general subject, I beg to offer the following suggestions:—

As the law now stands it is not *all* mixed cotton that is contraband, but only that which has been "fraudulently or dishonestly" mixed. Therefore, mixed cotton, which cannot be proved to have been fraudulently or dishonestly mixed, cannot be said to be "mixed as described in Section II" of Act IX, and if this be so, Section VIII of the Act as well as Section III, will in most cases be a dead letter. I think, therefore that it would be advisable, as soon as possible, to amend Section VIII so as to prohibit the pressing for exportation not only of mixed cotton "mixed as described in Section II," *i. e., fraudulently or dishonestly* mixed, but of *any* mixed cotton. I have already taken the liberty of suggesting, (in para 5 of my letter No. 241, dated 23rd March 1863) that all that was really necessary in the way of legislation to protect the cotton trade of India, was to prevent the pressing, and therefore the exportation from our Indian ports, of cotton likely from any cause to injure the national trade; and although this suggestion did not find favor in the eyes of our Legislators, who while prohibiting absolutely the admixture of dirt and other foreign matter with cotton, and conditionally the mixture of different staples, and making penal the offering of mixtures thus prohibited for the purpose of being pressed and packed, have not prohibited the *receiving* of them for pressure and packing. I am nevertheless still respectfully of opinion that it should even now be made illegal to compress for ex-

port, not only cotton adulterated by the mixture of foreign substances, and mixed cotton "fraudulently or dishonestly mixed," but *all* mixed cotton the exportation of which from India damages the character of our Indian trade.

7. It is also worthy of the consideration of Government whether the mere exportation of all mixed cotton, whether fraudulently mixed or not, and *whether compressed or not*, should not be declared illegal. If this be not done, we may find that one effect of our Bombay Legislation, as far as it has yet gone, may be to encourage the export to Goa for shipment thence to Europe, of cotton of a description which it is for the interest of the trade of British India not to permit to leave the country. This result may be the more likely in consequence of the completion, this year, of the first cart road which has ever been constructed from the Southern Mahratta Cotton field into the Goanese territory.

8. As regards the Agency to be employed for working the Act, I generally agree with the observations made by Dr. Forbes on this subject. He justly observes that the Agency must be paid according to the income obtainable under the Act, but is unable, as I also feel myself to be, to estimate this. Supposing the annual income to be in round numbers a lakh of rupees, I think it might be advantageously appropriated to keep up on a more liberal scale than that proposed by Dr. Forbes, a Staff of Inspectors as follows :—

1	on a monthly salary of Rupees	1000
1	.....	600
1	.....	500
1	.....	450
2	on a monthly salary of Rs. 400 each.....	800
2	..... 350	700
3	..... 300	900
3	..... 250	750
4	..... 200	800
4	..... 150	600
5	..... 100	500
27	Rupees....	7,600

These salaries would amount to Rs. 91,200 in the year, leaving Rupees 8,800 for searchers, contingencies, &c.

9. The Chief Inspector I would propose to place in Bombay with such a number of the inferior ones as might be found necessary to superintend the working of the presses there under his directions. He should also be in communication with all the Inspectors stationed in the Mofussil, and receive weekly from all of them, diaries shewing their daily work, besides, occasionally, special reports of matters which it might be of importance that he, or the Customs authorities, should be promptly made aware of. The whole staff of Inspectors I would place under the general control of the Commissioner of Customs, who would be able to aid their operations in many ways. This control could, however, only be exercised as regards Inspectors stationed in the Mofussil, through the Collectors of Districts, and should not be such as to interfere with the provisions of Clause 2 of Section XI of the Act.

10. If it be likely that the Funds available for the salaries of Inspectors would be insufficient to provide such a numerous staff as above suggested, it would be necessary to diminish the number of the lower paid grades, and also, I fear, to have a stronger force of searchers than I should otherwise think desirable, feeling as I do, unwilling to let this latter class of men perform their functions, except under [redacted]mmediate supervision of an Inspector who would prevent them from abusing their power and opportunities.

11. I should be inclined to recommend that, during the ensuing trading season, which will commence as soon as the roads are passable, probably within the next 15 or 20 days, Inspectors should not be dispersed over the Mofussil, but stationed only at Bombay and other Ports of Export, at places where there are cotton presses, and at the several cotton bunders on the coast. I suggest this as a measure likely to cause the pressure of the Cotton Act to fall more gradually on the mass of producers and first dealers in the staple, than it would do if at once acted upon throughout the country and also because its first perceptible pressure upon the cotton producing ryots would not be that of Government officers coming in direct collision with them, but that of the Merchants, who would, for their own sake, be obliged to refuse to purchase from the ryots and small dealers cotton which they would afterwards find to be unmarketable. The inspection of the few large Ginning Establishments which are to be found in the Mofussil, and which might be looked after in the way suggested by Dr. Forbes might, however, safely be made an exception to this rule, which I propose to obviate in some degree the bitter

feeling against Government which the direct action of the Law at once enforced would necessarily engender among a large body of the people.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. HART,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.

Poona, 21st September 1863.

P.S.—In corroboration of the information received by Dr. Forbes as to the facts noticed in the 12th and 14th paragraphs of his letter, I may mention that I have received a note from Mr. Reid the Acting Collector of Dharwar, in which he tells me that the newly appointed superintendent of the Cotton Gin Factories in his Collectorate, who had just returned from a visit of inspection to Gudduk, had informed him that he had ascertained that the ryots there were generally sowing mixed seed, and that there were, in that single town, about "fifteen thousand bales of cotton cleaned and uncleaned not *one* of which is unadulterated." Quoting from his informant, Mr. Reid continues :—"They sow "mixed cotton there, and mix it again afterwads to suit their ideas." "If the Act is carried into force at once, there will be about 100,000 "bales to be seized in Gudduk, Nurgoond and Nowlgood." The writer of these remarks apparently contemplated a process of seizure of *all* mixed cotton, for which the Law does not provide, but I quote what he has written as shewing that Dr. Forbes has not over-estimated the amount of mixed and adulterated cotton on hand.

(Signed) W. HART,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D.

From, G. F. FORBES, Esq.,
Superintendent Dharwar Cotton Gin Factory.

To, W. HART, Esq.,
Revenue Commissioner, S. D., Poona.

SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in your letter dated 6th ultimo, I beg to offer the following observations with respect to the measures necessary for bringing Act No. IX. of 1862 into operation.

2. In determining the scale or standard of establishments to be employed, it is necessary to have some idea of the amount of funds which will be forthcoming to cover all expenses.

3. Clause 13 of the Act provides that a fee of 4 annas be levied on each bale of cotton exported from British India, and this is the chief source from which funds will be available as the license fees for Presses will be a comparatively small sum, and no dependence can be placed upon the amount derivable from fines as a source of income.

4. At present Bombay and Kurrachee are the only ports at which shipments of cotton are made, and an approximate estimate might, I imagine, be obtained from the record of the Commissioner of Customs of the amount of cotton likely to be exported during the year. The rank or class, from which European Inspectors can be entertained may then be determined.

5. As the success of the object in view will be mainly dependant upon the efficiency and integrity of the Inspectors, and their employment is one that may be expected to expose them to temptation, I think that these appointments should be sufficiently well paid not only to admit of entertaining men from a respectable class, but also to ren[illegible]risking the loss of the situation either from neglect or misconduct, a matter of very serious consideration to them.

6. The employment should not, I think, be combined with the performance of any other duty, more especially during the season of export, and the salaries might be fixed upon a scale calculated according to the average annual amount of cotton passing through the station or port, the subordinate assistance or establishment also accorded to each Inspector, should be in proportion to the amount of work he has to perform, combined with any local circumstances, which might require to be specially provided for. The above mentioned scale should, I think, range from Rupees 300 per month downwards for outports and stations in the Interior.

7. As regards arranging the Establishments for the Presidency, there are local details and circumstances requiring consideration which can only be determined upon the spot in conjunction with the merchants and press owners, and with these points, I am not sufficiently acquainted to enable me to offer an opinion as to whether the whole work should be superintended by one Superior with Sub-Inspectors under his control, or separate men appointed to overlook each of the large pressing Establishments ; but this question is of importance not only from Bombay being the final port of shipment, but also that to a certain extent it will afford an opportunity of checking the work of the up-country Inspectors.

8. Each separate District will, in all probability, have peculiar circumstances requiring some modification in the general rates laid down for the guidance of the Inspectors, but these can only be ascertained from local enquiry. The Southern Mahratta Country presents greater difficulties in this respect than any other part of the Presidency, and from the information I have just collected I may here state, what these difficulties will be.

9. In November, last year, when the Members of the Cotton Commission visited Coompta, the place was found full of bad cotton, the owners and dealers did not attempt to defend the state of matters, but at once admitted, that even under the Law as it then stood, every bale in the place might be confiscated.

10. The excuse they pleaded, was that receiving no warning, they had as usual bought their cotton unconditionally, and that the adulteration was entirely due to the up-country dealers, that they themselves were helpless in as far as the stock on hand was concerned, but not so with regard to the future, and that they would willingly submit to any penalty if after the caution they had then received, such cotton was again found with them on the stock then on hand being disposed of, and from all I hear, I believe that most of them intend rather to suspend dealing than to run any risks.

11. The dealers and owners of the cleaning Establishments in the interior however state that not having received any intimation regarding the new Act, they have followed their former practice, and they freely admit that all the American cotton they now have, is mixed with native, and largely adulterated.

12. Of this year's crop I am told that there still remains about 100,000 dokras of American Cotton to be sent to Coompta, every one of which is contraband according to clause 2 of the Act. The difficulty in this case is to know what to do with such cotton, as after the Act is in force, it cannot be passed, and the quantity is too great for confiscation.

13. I see no other course open than that of obtaining a special decree (for this one occasion) on the ground that timely notice of the Act, was not issued, and permitting the cotton to pass into the market branded as "mixed Dharwar."

14. The second difficulty is connected with the cultivation, the admixture of the native and American varieties of cotton sown this season is greater I believe than it has ever been hitherto. For this

the Ryot is not to blame. In one of last year's cotton reports I mentioned what I had myself witnessed of the mixing of the two descriptions of cotton at the large Ginning houses—the cultivators who sold the cotton to the dealers, receive their seed from these Establishments, they have means of separating the one variety from the other, they are consequently obliged to sow it as it comes back to them, and the field is an index to the extent to which admixture was practised—in many places I am told that the native plants outnumber the American, the produce of all these fields will be subject to confiscation next season, and it is now a somewhat perplexing question to know what to advise to be done with them—the evil will never be got rid of until pure seed is again obtainable, and that can only be effected by weeding out the native plants from the New Orleans cotton fields.

15. The cultivator if he had his choice, would prefer pure seed because it yields a larger return by one-fourth with the same amount of labour, but he will not relish having to root up half his crop.

16. The only intermediate course that I see feasable would be to issue Circulars through the native officials explaining in Canarese the nature of that portion of the Act referring to the mixture of two varieties of cotton, and warning the owners of Gins that the cleaning of the crop now sown will be strictly watched, and all mixed cotton confiscated without reserve. Thus leaving it to themselves to decide whether they choose to weed out the native plants, or to pick the produce of each separately after it has ripened. If this plan is adopted the notice should be sent round without delay, because I believe that many of the cultivators would prefer picking out the native plants where they are not very numerous provided they can do so whilst they are still young which would have the effect of improving the crop that remains.

17. With regard to the Establishment required for the Dharwar Districts, as they differ in one respect from any of the other provinces in this Presidency, namely, in having two distinct varieties of cotton in extensive cultivation, and one of these much inferior to the other—provision must be made for detecting the fraudulent admixture of these articles, and this can only be done properly by examination of the seed after the cotton has been passed through the Sawgin. Two or three subordinate Inspectors will be required for this duty, at all events for the first year or two or until the seed has been restored to an unmixed condi-

tion, and the practice of wilfully mixing the two cottons has been abandoned or suppressed, their duty would be to visit regularly at short intervals during the clearing season, all the Ginning establishments of the Talooks to which they were appointed, and to keep a diary of the condition of the seed at each of them, from which they should furnish either a daily or weekly report to the Mamlutdars and Mahalkaries, and copies of these should be sent to the Collector.

18. The owners of these establishments might be required to reserve the seed from their Gins until it has been examined and passed by the Inspector, he being bound to visit each place alternately within a specified number of days. Trustworthy natives if they can be got, might suffice for this duty each on 50 or 60 Rupees monthly pay.

19. Coompta from its importance and the large extent of its trade will require a first-class European Inspector, and from what I know of the people, I should be glad to see the duty in the hands of an officer.

20. I imagine there are many officers unemployed in the Staff Corps who would be both able and willing to perform the work on the pay that will be given. If you approve of this suggestion and an officer is appointed, I would recommend his being attached to me for a few weeks for the purpose of obtaining some knowledge of the different qualities of the cotton of these districts. The Inspector will require a Carkoon and two peons as his establishment.

21. I have delayed this reply in hopes of being able to visit Coompta before writing on the subject, but the receipt of your Assistant Mr. Grant's letter No. 2842, of the 1st instant has caused me to do so at once. I may, however, have to write again after I have seen and conferred with the Coompta people.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) G. F. FORBES,

Supt. Dharwar Cotton Gin Factory.

Sudasheeghur, 12*th September* 1863.

(True Copies)

J. B. RICHEY,

Officiating Under Secretary to Government.

No. 129 of 1863.

To J. B. RICHEY, Esq.,

Officiating Under Secretary to Government,

Revenue Department, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber to reply to your letters No. 3403 and 3606 of 1863 relative to the machinery which it is desirable to introduce for the working of the Cotton Frauds Bill No. IX of 1863. On receipt of the papers accompanping your letters the Committee determined to submit them to the Members of the Chamber, and to invite individual opinions on the subject, they regret that the opinions sent in have not been more numerous and also that so long time has elapsed before they were in a position to reply to the reference by the Government.

Copies of the opinions are sent herewith and the Committee have only to draw the attention of the Government to the strong recommendation which runs through them all, that in putting the Bill in force the Government should confine itself to a very gentle exercise of the powers entrusted to them by the Act.—I have the honor, &c.

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 7th December 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. W. NICOL AND CO.

We are inclined to think that the control of the Establishment necessary for the working of the Act throughout the Presidency should be vested in a highly paid official, specially appointed for the duty, rather than in the Commissioner of Customs, whose duties are already sufficiently onerous. This officer might have a deputy, to whom for the present the duty of administering the Act in Bombay itself might be entrusted. If in practice it be afterwards found that the supervision thus secured is inadequate, separate inspectors may be appointed for different localities.

The question what machinery will be requisite for the effective administration of the Act in the Mofussil is a difficult one. Some of the practical difficulties which will have to be met are pointed out by Dr. Forbes, and in their view the remarks of Mr. Hart in the closing paragraph of his letter seem to us particularly valuable.

j

It appears to us that at the outset it would be undesirable to have a large establishment of officials (for the most part on low salaries and thus open to corruption,) over the Cotton districts. There must be inspectors, who should be well paid and carefully selected men, at the ports of shipment on the sea coast and probably also at the principal Depôts on the lines of Railway, but in the districts, the main step at the outset will be, as widely as possible to make known the provisions of the Act, and to secure by means of the existing Government establishments the registration of presses where they exist, and the stamping of bales or docras so that they shall be easily traceable to the place of production.

W. NICOL AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. CAMPBELL, MITCHELL AND Co.

We have disapproved of the Cotton Frauds Bill from the first, and see no reason to change our opinion when the question comes to be, how the Act is to be administered? We think it cannot be put in force without great risk of oppression and extortion, as well as of interruption to trade, and there is nothing in the recommendations of the Government officials on the subject which gives promise of a happier result.

Since the bill has been passed, we think the best plan is to let it quietly remain in *statu quo*, it will then at least be harmless, instead of being mischievous, and if the reports we hear be true the Home Government will not be displeased at such a course.

Taking the opinions of the Government officers in order, we have first to deal with the suggestions of the Chief Commissioner of Customs. These only provide for a staff of Inspectors at the presidency, whose duty shall be to watch the cotton screws. The Commissioner seems to think that the sole object of the bill is to prevent the shipment to England of adulterated cotton, but we gather from the bill that its object is to prevent fraud where fraud is prevalent, others indirectly to secure an improvement in the quality of the cotton shipped. The plan proposed by the Chief Commissioner of Customs appears to us to be unlikely to check to any great extent the evils of adulteration, while it is costly in its working, and what is of much more importance, it is calculated to cause much troublesome interference with the work of the local press Companies, thus placing a needless obstruction to business in the very narrowest channel of the trade.

The proposal of the Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, comes next in order. It refers to the up-country machinery for the bill, and provides for a set of Inspectors and their subordinates being thrown broadcast over the Mofussil. These officials are to consist of the local native Government officers, supervised by Europeans, which proposal is in direct opposition to the recommendation of the other Commissioner. The salaries of these native officials, the Mamlutdars and Foujdars, are small, and an engine would be placed in their hands under this bill, by which an unscrupulous Inspector could very readily increase his emoluments by vexatious inteference and threats of seizure. We greatly fear that oppression and injustice will be the result of such a system, and that it may cause that species of resistance on the part of the natives, with which we are all familiar, a simultaneous stoppage of business throughout a district—and thus the bill, which was intended to benefit Manchester, may, in addition to leading to oppression, be the means of keeping back what is virtually bread from the starving mill hands of Lancashire.

While the preceding proposals do not recommend themselves to us, we must observe that the suggestions of the Revenue Commissioner of the Southern Division, and those contained in Dr. Forbes's letter, of which he approves, appear to us to be flagrantly in violation of the spirit of the Act, and most tyrannical in their tendency. It is proposed to get rid of the word "fraudulently" altogether in the question of mixing cotton, and to interdict the practice of mixing entirely, even in cases where the grower sees his way to a better return for his crop by mixing two varieties, and openly declares what he has done, Dr. Forbes, the gentleman whom Government has just appointed to be the nursing mother of the cotton trade in this Presidency, and to encourage, *not to force*, a better system of cultivation, proposes to initiate his office by going to the ryots of the Southern Mahratta Country and giving them two alternatives 'either to root up half their crop, or to pick the produce of each variety separately after the crop was ripened. In the event of their doing neither, and the second alternative is impossible, the crop is to be forfeited and destroyed. We can scarcely believe that such a proposal could come from the Government Cotton Officer, endorsed by the Revenue Commissioner, so outrageously arbitrary and tyrannical, particularly when we consider that the question of cotton growing is never alluded to in the Bill.

If such is the spirit of the Head Officials what hope is there for fair play to the ryot at the hands of the subordinates of the department.

We have thus reviewed the recommendations of the Government Officers, and we are sorry that we cannot do other than condemn them—but before we conclude we feel called on to say one word as to the propriety of the Chamber's interfering in the matter of the machinery of the Bill at all. When the Bill was brought forward neither the promoter nor the Government thought proper to consult the Chamber until so late that the reference was a mere farce, and as the working of the Bill is not likely to be productive of much good, and may if put in force with vigour lead to much harm, we think that it is unadvisable that the Chamber should incur any responsibility on the subject, and that the Committee should politely decline on the part of the Chamber, in its corporate capacity, to express an opinion on the working of a measure, as to which they were virtually ignored when the Bill was passed.

(Signed) CAMPBELL, MITCHELL AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. A. H. HUSCHKE AND Co.

We concur in the view expressed in the concluding para: of the Minute of Messrs. C. M. and Co., as the *Chamber* cannot be said to have had anything to do with the making of the bill, (whatever part individual firms may have taken in the discussion of the measure) the Chamber in its *corporate capacity* should now decline to make itself in any way responsible for the machinery to work it.

(Signed) A. H. HUSCHKE AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. LAWRENCE AND Co.

We agree with the views expressed by Messrs. C. M. and Co.

(Signed) LAWRENCE AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. RITCHIE, STEUART AND CO.

We have read with much interest the valuable papers submitted by Government—in much that is said by the Revenue Commissioner, the Commissioner of Customs and Dr. Forbes, we fully agree, and we approve of many of the suggestions made by them.

It appears to us that the first thing to be done is to give the widest possible publicity to the Act, its provisions should be thoroughly explained to every dealer in cotton throughout the country from the ryot upwards. The next thing is to provide the machinery necessary to carry out these provisions, and to devise the best means of working this.

The Agency will have to be well paid and trustworthy, and its control must be in the hands of officers of position and of tried judgment; the greatest possible care should be exercised in their selection—had the services of the officer mentioned by Mr. Inverarity been available, we do not think that a better man for the head of the Department could have been found. Government will doubtless, however, have little difficulty in selecting an officer of similar qualifications.

We have all along held that the mere existence of the Act and of the machinery necessary to enforce it would, after a short time, almost destroy the necessity of enforcing the law at all, by destroying the evils which originally called for its enactment. We feel convinced that if Government will proceed to administer the law firmly, but very gently (except in extreme cases) the gross adulteration of cotton which it was intended to check will disappear in one sense, therefore we confidently trust that the Act will ere long become "a dead letter" though to effect this desirable consummation it will be necessary that Government should always retain the power to enforce it and the machinery wherewith to do so.

We have great faith in the working back (so to speak) of the law from the exporter and great cotton dealer to the ryot, to whom as we have on previous occasions stated, we do not believe that any great amount of guilt is attached in this matter. He would therefore strongly recommend that the pressure be exercised at the exporting ports, and that the powers given by the Act to Government should for the present be very tenderly exercised in the growing Districts. The amount of pressure to be exercised at the commencement of the Act's operations will require very great judgment, and it is this which makes us lay so much stress on the selection of the

agency to be employed, in the hands of a judicious officer, the Act will, we believe, prove effectual in suppressing adulteration without exciting any opposition or involving any hardship to any one, in the hands of an officer of a different character, we frankly admit that hardship might ensue.

We think, therefore, that the Chamber should respectfully urge upon Government the necessity of a very careful selection of Agency, of a very gentle exercise for the present of the powers entrusted to them by the Act, and of putting on the pressure chiefly at the exporting ports, leaving it to work back to the cultivator.

As regards some of these points we would call special attention to para. 11 of Mr. Hart's very valuable letter. In much that is stated in para. 9 of the same officer's letter we fully concur, but we should much prefer to see the control of the cotton inspecting agency vested in an independent officer rather than in the hands of the already overworked Commissioner of Customs, this control as regards Inspectors in the Mofussil should only as Mr. Hart suggests, be exercised through the Collectors of Districts.

We think the Head of the Department should be located in Bombay, and that for local inspection we should have the assistance of one well paid European Assistant. With two energetic men thus placed, the whole Department could, we believe, be efficiently controlled and a sufficient amount of supervision exercised over the stocks of cotton on the spot.

We think the placing of Inspectors in every Press-building altogether unnecessary and undesirable—an unexpected visit now and then to each establishment and frequent visits to the Cotton Green, &c., would, in our opinion, be quite sufficient to engender such a feeling of insecurity as to make our dealers very chary of having anything to do with adulterated cotton—there is no doubt that the Inspectors will be directly and indirectly aided in many ways—gross cases of adulteration will be brought to their notice; a bulky article like cotton cannot very easily be moved in time to escape an energetic man, and a few examples will go very far to cure the evil.

The Presidency Inspectors should not be hampered with any other duties.

Similarly we would have a well paid European Inspector at each

of the important subsidiary exporting ports. Other duties might, we think, without harm in many cases be combined with those of cotton Inspector, but this is a matter which can be best decided by experienced officers of Government. Similarly as regards the Inspectors of Presses in Guzerat where alone as yet Presses exist in the Mofussil.

Such general gentle supervision as we would alone recommend should be exercised for the present throughout the growing districts had better be left to the existing superior Revenue officers of Government.

As regards the existing state of matters in the Southern Mahratta Country described by Dr. Forbes and referred to by Mr. Hart in paras 4 and 5 of his letter, we think that the mixed cotton now existing (*and not otherwise adulterated*) must be allowed to pass on; it might be stamped as suggested, or merely "Dharwar Cotton, season 1863" the meaning of the latter mark would be easily understood, and the cotton would rank accordingly.

Paras 14 to 18 of Dr. Forbes's letter and the measures which they recommend directly, or which they merely suggest, require the most careful consideration—it is of incalculable importance that pure acclimatized seed should again be obtainable, and it seems certain that this will be in a few years practically almost impossible, unless action be taken at once in the matter. We think measures, might be devised which, without rendering any great interference with the growers necessary, or occasioning any great inconvenience to the cotton cleaner, might ensure for the future a supply of pure seed—for instance it occurs to us that by means of its already existing agencies in the Southern Mahratta Country, Government might still obtain by selection a considerable quantity of pure seed, and this might be supplied if need be gratis to the grower. We feel hardly confident to advise on this point, but we do not think that Government could do better than leave the matter in the hands of so able and experienced an officer as Dr. Forbes. We have no doubt that were this done, he would be able to submit to Government a scheme, the operation of which would satisfy the necessary requirements, be effectual on the one hand, and not oppressive on the other.

(Signed) RITCHIE, STEUART AND Co.

Minute by Messrs. GREY and Co.

The accompanying papers appear to have been about six weeks in circulation, during which time they have been seen by 20 members, but five only have minuted, two of these to the effect that the Chamber should decline to express any opinion whatever on the subject submitted by Government. We can not concur in this, as it appears to us, somewhat disrespectful suggestion, and as we fear that at the rate indicated, any opinions recorded, will hardly be a fair representation of the views of the body corporate, we would suggest that unless at least half of the members give utterance to their opinions, the observations of those who do commit them to paper, should be forwarded as from individual merchants, and not as the collective expression of the views of the Chamber of Commerce. Act IX of 1863 is a law that will, in our opinion, be powerful for good or evil according as it may be introduced into operation, judiciously and temperately, or rashly and harshly, and probably the same might be said of a good many other salutary and necessary laws. We do not suppose it has the intention of the legislators who made the law, "to let loose upon the country a swarm of "ill-paid, dishonest, and grasping officials" to carry it into operation, in that event it would indeed be an instrument of oppression and injustice, but we see no grounds, and we trust there are none, for assuming that such is to be the action of the Executive Government in the matter. We trust and believe that another and a different class of Inspectors will be appointed, and with regard to the selection of these, we would only observe that the duties are such as call for the highest qualities, and that therefore the question of their remuneration should be entirely secondary to that of their integrity and efficiency. We trust we shall not be misunderstood in suggesting that these officers, or at least the chief of them, should be sought for in the ranks of the covenanted services, as these seem to us to afford guarantees for conduct not so readily to be found elsewhere. We think there can be no difficulty in finding the class of men to which we point, and if this opinion is correct, the most liberal expenditure that can possibly be incurred for establishment will be dwarfed into utter insignificance by the amount of good that may be brought. It appears to us that the Inspectors at the chief places of export will find sufficient employment in devoting their undivided attention to carrying out the provisions

of the Act, and as regards the agency in the producing districts, the Government will best judge how far the existing establishment can be made available for the proposed work. We are of those who think that an evil can be best corrected at its source, and we confess we attach at least as much importance to judicious action upon the grower, as to any ulterior measures that may be adopted against the resetters, if we may so call them; with respect to the existing stock and growing crops of cotton, alluded to in paras 11 to 16 of Dr. Forbes's letter, we can see but one just course to pursue, and that is to send it forth to the world, branded with its true title, "a mixture." This will be doing a public good and cannot, with any show of reason, be complained of as an injustice. We do not of course allude to cotton found as *we* have often found it, mixed with stones, bricks, ropes, sand and dirt, such will be instantly and unhesitatingly confiscated, but our remark refers to a mixture of two or more kinds of sound cotton which, without the distinguishing mark proposed to be affixed, would in all probability be described and sold as one kind, pure and simple—Dr. Forbes goes beyond what we are prepared to advocate, when he proposes that all such mixtures of sound cotton should be confiscated. We are quite alive to the national importance of procuring pure descriptions of cotton, and, so far as persuasive measures, accompanied if necessary by liberal supplies of seed, are likely to avail to that end, we think they should be freely employed, seeing that they tend to the general good, but we confess we cannot follow the excellent and zealous Cotton Commissioner, in what we conceive to be such an undue interference with due liberty of action, as dictating to the grower what he shall grow, so long as he (the grower) makes no fraudulent representation as to the nature or quality of his crop. We think all that should be done is to see that he calls his merchandize by a right name. In short, endeavour to persuade him by all fair means to grow a pure article, but if he persists in producing and offering for sale a mongrel description, brand it as such from the time it leaves his field, until it reaches the spinner. He (the grower) will thereby suffer directly, where he is most sensitive, in the pocket, for he will be deprived of the opportunity of which he has hitherto freely availed himself, of contracting to deliver one thing, and of really delivering another of inferior quality and value.

We believe that if the law which is the subject of these observations be confided to officers of discretion and experience, and be administered in the spirit in which it was conceived, it will be an incalculable benefit to the cotton trade of Western India, and we are quite at a loss to imagine why it should be opposed by any who desire to see that trade prosper.

(Signed) GREY AND Co.

17*th November* 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. COMBER AND SON.

We agree with the views expressed in Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart, and Co.'s minute.

(Signed) COMBER, SON AND Co.

We freely agree with the views expressed in Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart and Co.'s minute, and we are decidedly of opinion that the pressure should be put on chiefly at the exporting ports, leaving it to work back to the cultivators.

p.p. S. BURSTALL AND Co.,
THOMAS BROOKE.

We also approve of Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart and Co.'s views.

ROBINSON AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. MACINDOE, ROGERS AND Co.

The most vital point in connection with the measures proposed to be adopted for giving effect to Act IX of 1863, has been prominently noticed in several of the preceding Minutes, viz., the selection of a highly-paid and qualified agency, to carry out the

working of the Act. On this selection its efficiency will mainly depend, and Government will doubtless have little difficulty in securing the services of officers, under whose management the law in question will be judiciously and temperately administered, to the great advantage of all connected with the cotton trade, from the ryot upwards.

We are of those who think, that when the nature of the Act, and the provisions adopted for its efficient working become generally known to the cotton dealers and ryots, the abuses against which it is directed, will at once diminish so considerably, that after a few examples the law will seldom have to be enforced, and then only in isolated cases of gross and wilful adulteration.

Its effect would at once become apparent on the spot, and would doubtless put an immediate end to the numerous cases of gross and fraudulent adulteration practised by many of the dealers, to which all who have had any experience in the trade of late, must frequently have been witness. Many of these cases have been of such a deliberately dishonest and fraudulent character, that we can only wonder at a voice of opposition being raised against the carrying out of a measure which aims at abolishing practices that tend to sap the foundations of the trade.

We think the recommendations contained in para. 11 of Mr. Hart's Report, particularly valuable, and if the pressure on the ryots be gradually, and as it were indirectly, exercised as therein suggested, no great opposition on their part to the proposed improvements, need be apprehended. The great importance of procuring an adequate supply of pure acclimatized seed cannot be overrated, and Dr. Forbes's remarks on this head will doubtless lead to immediate action on the part of Government. Improvements so introduced will soon convince the ryots that they will themselves benefit greatly by the measures adopted by Government, and it is hardly reasonable to suppose that when their true nature becomes known any fear of tyrannical or undue interference will long exist among them.

The modifications proposed by Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart and Co. and Messrs. Grey and Co., to the suggestions of Dr. Forbes regarding the growing crop in the Dharwar Districts, we think fully meet the case.

With regard to the establishment necessary for the working of the Act it seems generally agreed that the chief control should be vested in a highly paid official appointed for the purpose whose head-quarters should be Bombay and who should act independently of the Commissioner of Customs, and as regards the control to be exercised by the Inspectors appointed for the Mofussil, the proposal of Mr. Hart appears most suitable.

(Signed) MACINDOE, ROGERS AND Co.

COTTON ADULTERATION BILL.

MINUTE BY ALEX. C. BRICE AND Co.

The Chamber is not invited by Government to discuss the principles of the Bill which has already become law, but Mr. Hart's proposal to amend clause VIII and to make it penal both to offer and to receive for compression mixed or deteriorated cotton, whether with or without presumed fraudulent intention: Dr. Forbes' recommendation that one of two mixed varieties of Cotton growing in the same field shall be rooted out or that the mixed kupas shall be confiscated at the Gin Houses: and Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart and Co.'s suggestion that all ginned Cotton in Dharwar shall be branded crop 1863 at the risk of including among the mixed some that is good, show how insensibly we are being led on in principles of interference with the trade in this article. The Supreme and the Home Governments *reluctantly* sanctioned the Bill as it was passed here, but we are now urged to concur in measures many times more stringent than those in the Act. It can hardly be deemed obtrusive therefore to offer a few remarks not immediately connected with the machinery for working the Bill, and I would respectfully remind the advocates of the above measures that extremes generally fail in action.

For many years past the necessity for some measure has been felt by those engaged in up country trade, but the growth of the evils of adulteration has made them both more necessary and more difficult to be dealt with: for instance, it is admitted that in Dharwar

it is now difficult to obtain unmixed seed, perhaps not more pure New Orleans *acclimatised* seed could be got than would be sufficient for a number of nursery gardens.

To insist that no one shall plant other than such seed, if he plant this kind at all, or that he shall root out every plant of the indigenous species that shall spring up among the New Orleans kind, would, I fear, cause the extermination of this exotic from the Dharwar District. It would be impossible to satisfy the people that the destruction of *half* (see Dr. Forbes's letter) their expected crop at a period of enormous prices, such as may never recur, would be for their future benefit.

The alternative of obliging them to pick the two sorts of cotton separately over hundreds of thousands of acres by means of careless, ignorant, unsuperintended women and children is at variance with Dr. Forbes's usually practical measures—it could not be done.

In the opinion of some, the whole of the plants of that district have become hybridised and two varieties of cotton are often gathered off the same plant. Here Dame Nature has been the adulterator, what are we to do with her? punish the unfortunate ryot for her freaks? Is the produce she has mixed to become a contraband article of agriculture?

We should recall to mind the effect of even the fostering care which Government tried to extend to the cultivation of the New Orleans Cotton in the Belgaum Collectorate, it prevented the production of that species altogether there—we may excite an amount of opposition that it will be difficult to stem.

It is most desirable that the finest unmixed *acclimatised* New Orleans seed should be obtained. Let the Government make private arrangement for the growth of as much as shall be necessary for seed, let the finest pods be picked off the finest plants and pedigree Cotton Seed be distributed in large quantities to the ryots, then there will be less hardship in punishing admixture.

But the Government have no title to break the covenants under which the Ryots hold their 20 year leases by obliging them to grow unmixed Cotton any more than they have the right to oblige them to grow enough of it for the rest of the world; we are now picking Cotton off 15 acres in Ellichpoor which were purposely sown in alternate rows of Dharwar and Hinguighat seed, are we to be bound

down to some stereotyped government system? if so, adieu to the little enterprise there is excited.

As respects the Bill as passed, it is to be regretted that the precise definition of adulteration was not given. Broach Cotton with 5 per cent of dirt, leaf, seed, free from fibre, kupas (i.e. cotton pods as picked which had undergone no churkaing, footrolling or ginning) would at one time have been called adulterated, while Compta Cotton with 15 per cent. of such admixture would be called good, there is the certainty in prospect of Inspectors disagreeing on the point, and buyers have not an agreed standard among themselves.

There is much more in the Bill that would have admitted of more careful handling; but if it is to be put into force I suggest:—

That the members of the mercantile community engage towards each other that so soon as Government shall notify that the Bill is in operation in any District, they will, *when contracting for forward delivery*, stipulate for such quality as shall bear the Government first or second class stamp.

I suggest that it should be optional to all parties to have their cotton (first or second qualities only) stamped whether in bales or docras. I would train the people to consider the stamping it as a favor rather than as an obligation—no fee should be charged in the District.

The Press Companies will have to be bound to take cognizance of he Government marks, to cancel them on the returned gunnies and to repeat them on the pressed bales, care too will have to be taken that the stained, caked and dusty skin off the docras be not packed in the bales. It is penal to false pack the contents *i. e.* to place bad cotton in the middle of a bale where it is not likely to be discovered or to affix on bad cotton a mark that will ordinarily distinguish good cotton; would the offence be the same if docras bearing the Government up country stamp, partially or entirely damaged were to be packed?

I think that it would prove a great hardship to make the Act apply to local dealers and to render them liable for offences committed up country, particularly while there were no means of assisting them to obtain cotton of any certain quality in satisfaction of their contracts with the ryots and others, the present civil courts are useless in deciding disputes about quality, there is no

official in the Districts to whom appeal can be made if a buyer is dissatisfied with the quality of what is delivered him in payment of advances, let the trade-rule be, that the ryot or petty dealer shall be bound by contract to deliver first or second quality stamped cotton or kupas, let the Government aid and encourage this and then the Bombay dealer will be in a like position to that in which the European Houses here will be placed by the present Bill.

Stamped docras will still be liable to be tampered with, but detection would take place in Bombay as a rule. I think that inferior cotton would, after these measures, be only dealt in *after inspection*, and as it is impossible in the present state of the roads, rivers, carts and system of packing the cotton up country in large mesh nets but that much of the good cotton should become inferior, it would be a great hardship to condemn all such cotton to the flames or the dung hill as unexportable and not otherwise consumable in this country, for it is well known that bad cotton can be worked up at home by waste spinners, but it is useless here

The District Inspectors should be given magisterial powers to decide summarily all offences under this Act, to make them public prosecutors would oblige each with his establishment to be constantly roving *away from the field of his active duties*, to prove his charges before the Collector on circuit, the revenue officials and the police are far too heavily taxed now to be able to take primary cognisance of the numerous new cases that will arise from the working of this Act. Committals of confiscations under its clauses might be referred for confirmation to the chief magistrate, but I would respectfully recommend that Government give the Inspectors very large powers and keep public opinion directed to their proceedings by publishing all cases decided by these Inspectors in the Government Gazette.

Dependent upon the number of large markets in each District and the facilities for travelling over it, the number of European assistants will have to be regulated, two would seem to be generally sufficient. The native staff should be stationary so that there might be no divided responsibility as to what person affixed the Government stamp at the particular place, other details as to working up country can easily be arranged, but I would respectfully guard the Government against attempting to repeat a regulation that existed in the Dharwar Districts, and which proved so obnoxious that I had

to urge, and succeeded in obtaining its repeal. In that part of the country no cart with cotton was allowed to leave a village without a pass testifying that the cotton on it was good: Inspection of the cotton was never made, nothing identified the docras afterwards; the regulation was effectual only in delaying the transport of this staple, annoying the traders and in putting bribes into the hands of village patells and peons.

(Signed) A. C. BRICE.

Bombay, 17th November 1863.

No. 3606 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter No. 3403, dated 5th instant, I am directed to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of a letter as per margin from the Commissioner in Sind on the subject of the measures to be taken for bringing into operation Bombay Act IX of 1863 for the prevention of Adulteration of Cotton and better Suppression of Frauds in the Cotton Trade of the Presidency of Bombay.—I have the honor to be, &c

No. 277 dated 10th October 1863.

(Signed) J. B. RICHEY,

Officiating Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 16th October 1863.

No. 277 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

From the Commissioner in Sind.

To His Excellency the Honorable Sir H. B. E. FRERE, K. C. B.

Governor and President in Council, Bombay.

HONORABLE SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Government letter in the Revenue Department, No. 2148A.,

dated 24th July last, calling for my opinion generally as to the measures to be taken for bringing into operation Bombay Act No. IX of 1863.

2. I observe that Sections II and III relate to the fraudulent adulteration and deterioration of cotton, and to the selling or offering for sale of cotton so adulterated or deteriorated, that Sections IV to X relate to Cotton Presses, and that the remaining five Sections relate to the appointment of Inspectors, adjudication of offences, disposal of fines, &c.,

3. Sections II and III will apply with equal force throughout the Province, while Sections IV to X will apply to Kurrachee alone, there being no Presses elsewhere.

4. The first measure necessary to be adopted is the issue of the Notification required by Section IV., and then Inspectors can be appointed under Section XI.

5. It will of course be necessary to appoint Inspectors in the town of Kurrachee, where Cotton Presses have already been established, and to which port the cotton grown throughout the greater part of the Province and in the Punjab, is brought for exportation. It will also be necessary, I apprehend, to station an Inspector at Giddoo Bunder in the Hydrabad Collectorate, where the cotton grown to the east of the Province and in the adjacent territories crosses the river Indus en route to Kurrachee.

6. But elsewhere I think it will be unnecessary to take any further measures than the issue of Vernacular translations of the Act, in order that the penalties laid down in Sections II and III may become generally known. The wholesome effect of this step is described by the Acting Collector of Shikarpoor in these words :—

"The cultivator will be held in check by the small dealer, and "the small dealer by the wholesale merchant, each of whom will "naturally scrutinize pretty closely every purchase that he makes, "lest he should eventually be made to pay the penalty of another fraud."

7. The Collector of Kurrachee, with the consent of Mr. Dalzell, proposes to appoint Mr. Ryland, the Assistant Collector of Customs, as Inspector of Cotton at Kurrachee on a salary of Rs. 150 per mensem in addition to the salary of his substantive appointment. I am, however, disinclined to support this proposition, as I am of opinion that the duties required to be performed by an In-

spector under the Act can only be efficiently performed by a person who can devote the whole of his time to it. I would, therefore, recommend that a person who is in no way trammelled with other business, be appointed Inspector on a salary of Rs. 250 per mensem, as it is impossible to procure the services of a sufficiently trustworthy and respectable person to perform duties of such an inquisitorial nature on a lower rate of salary.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) S. MANSFIELD,
Commissioner in Sind.

(True Copy.)
J. B. RICHEY,
Officiating Under Secretary to Government.

Commissioner's Office, Kurrachee, 10th October 1863.

No. 4474 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—With reference to your letter No. 129, dated the 7th instant, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, an Extract from the proceedings of Government on the subject of the measures to be taken for bringing into operation Bombay Act IX of 1863 for the prevention of adulteration of cotton, and the better suppression of frauds in the cotton trade in the Presidency of Bombay.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

No. 4444, dated 12th December 1863.

A. ROBERTSON,
Officiating Chief Secretary to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 14th Dec. 1863.

No. 948A OF 1864.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In continuation of my letter, No. 4474, dated the 14th Dec. 1863, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward herewith for the information of the Chamber of Commerce (20) twenty copies of Extracts from the papers as noted in the margin, on the subject of the further measures which have been adopted for the suppression of the robbery and adulteration of cotton in this Presidency.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

Extract (paras: 1 to 24) from a letter from the Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department, to Government No. 1, dated 4th January 1864.
Extract (paras: 1 to 8) of the Government reply to the above letter No. 193, dated 19th January 1864.
Extract (paras: 1 to 8, part of para: 9 and paras: 10 to 21) from a letter from the Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department, to Government, No. 18, dated 18th February 1864.
Extract paras: 1 to 4 from Government Resolution on the above, No. 848, dated 8th March 1864.

J. B. RICHEY,

Officiating Under-Secretary to Govt.

Extract (paragraphs 1 to 24) from a Letter from the Inspector in Chief, Cotton Department, to Government, No. 1, dated 4th January 1864.

I have the honour with deference to request you will be good enough at your early convenience to lay before His Excellency the Governor in Council the following remarks on Bombay Act IX. of 1863, entitled "An Act for the prevention of the Adulteration of Cotton, and the better suppression of Frauds in the Cotton Trade in the Presidency of Bombay."

2. Section 2 provides the punishment for *fraudulent* and *dishonest* adulteration or deterioration of Cotton. Section 3 provides the punishment for *fraudulently* or *dishonestly* selling, or offering for sale, adulterated or deteriorated Cotton. Against these two Sections nothing can be urged by the greatest enemies of the Act, though the crimes therein described were already more severely

punishable under the Indian Penal Code, and Regulation III. of 1829, Sections 4, 5, 6 and 7 relate to Cotton Presses and the rules by which their owners are to be guided. They do not call for any comment.

3. Section 8 runs as follows :—

"Any person offering for compression Cotton adulterated or deteriorated, or mixed as described in Section 2, shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding 1,000 Rupees and the Cotton shall be confiscated."

4. This is the most important clause in the Act; and as I am the officer selected to introduce the new Law, I beg I may be allowed to trespass at some length on the attention of Government with reference to this clause and the considerations it involves.

5. In the first place, does it mean that only those who *fraudulently* and *dishonestly* offer adulterated or deteriorated Cotton for compression render themselves liable to fine and their Cotton to confiscation? or does the Section also apply to persons offering adulterated or deteriorated Cotton for compression though entirely ignorant and innocent of such adulteration or deterioration? I presume that this last question will be answered in the negative; but the omission from Section 8 of the words "fraudulently and dishonestly" used in Sections 2 and 3 leaves the point doubtful.

6. The first principles of justice, I respectfully urge, demand that a guilty knowledge should be proved before punishment is inflicted; and in order to show how a man may quite unconsciously, and with perfect innocence, offer adulterated Cotton in Bombay for compression, I beg to give an account of the manner in which Cotton adulteration takes place in this Presidency.

7. As I have served nearly ten years in the Surat, Broach, and Ahmedabad Collectorates, and have been frequently encamped at the ports of Gogo, Surat, Randier, Broach, Tankeria Bunder, Dholera, and Cambay, and have occasionally travelled on duty nearly the whole coast road from Cambay in the north to Damaun in the south, I trust my remarks on this head may not be considered dogmatical.

8. Almost all the Cotton that comes to Bombay from Guzerat and Dharwar is sent in large Cotton-boats and Pattimars. The tindals and sailors who man these boats are all notorious thieves, as their ancestors were in olden times notorious pirates. It is not

the practice on the part of the shippers to send with each boat a supercargo or any one else to take charge of the valuable freight. This is solely intrusted to men known throughout the Presidency as professional and irretrievable thieves. The consequences of course may be anticipated. Between the ports of Guzerat and Bombay, and between the ports where the Dharwar Cotton is shipped and Bombay, intervene the seaboard territories of the Guicowar of Baroda, the Kattywar Chiefs, the Nawab of Sucheen, and the Hubshee. In all these territories are navigable rivers and bays, where, under pretence of requiring water, the sailors take their pattimars. The British Government, having no jurisdiction, cannot of course send its Police or Magisterial Officers to stop a custom on which hundreds of coast villages solely thrive. The Native governments are either unable or unwilling to interfere. As soon therefore as a pattimar well freighted with Cotton enters one of those rivers, or stands a little off shore, she is surrounded by boats filled with accomplices of the tindal and his crew. The Cotton bales are then opened, and a portion of the Cotton extracted. Stones, dirt, and rubbish are then put into the bales to make the required weight. The bales are lastly sewn up by the sailors, and are delivered in Bombay to the consignees, presumably and apparently in the condition they were when they left the Cotton ports.

9. I have no hesitation in saying that 80 per cent of the Cotton adulteration that annually occurs takes place in this manner; and I confidently appeal to officers such as Messrs. G. Inverarity, Ellis, Rogers, Oliphant, Ashburner, Hodgson, and Carr, as well as the captains of all the Surat coasting steamers, to corroborate my assertions.

10. So bold are the thieves occasionally, that, not content with pilfering Cotton and substituting stones, they at times take the whole cargo, and pretend that it has gone to the bottom of the sea in a storm. Two such cases I lately tried when a magistrate in Guzerat. In one instance I convicted the whole crew of (I think) thirteen men, and sentenced them to two years' rigorous imprisonment. In the other case only the tindal could be apprehended, and he was also sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment. In both these cases the decisions were upheld on appeal, and the property that was lost was certainly valued at Rupees 30,000. And, oddly enough, the thirteen men were residents of a village adjoining the

Guicowar's town of Nowsaree (a notorious place for the reception of stolen property,) where some years previously, I had taken cart loads of stolen Cotton from almost every house in the village; and on that occasion I convicted (I think) thirty-nine people of knowingly receiving stolen Cotton.

11. Now though the merchants and shippers may be, and in my opinion are culpably foolish for intrusting valuable property solely and unreservedly to notorious thieves, yet I do not think they can in equity be held criminally responsible for the adulteration of their Cotton, though I do not believe it would take place if supercargoes were sent with the boats. For of course the consignees have no actual knowledge of what occurred on the voyage; and as their Cotton bales, *minus* the extracted Cotton and *plus* stones, dirt, and rubbish, weigh pretty nearly according to the figures in the invoices, they have no grounds on which to hand over the tindal and his crew to the police.

12. They cannot of course spare the time, or obtain accommodation, for opening, thoroughly examining, and repacking thousands of enormous bales, to see whether they have been tampered with or not; so they can only hope that the sailors in their case have been honest, and that their Cotton has not been first pilfered and then adulterated.

13. However, adulterated or pure, the bales are sent into the market for sale. European and Native merchants of the highest respectability come to purchase. Samples are produced, and perhaps appear of excellent quality, for the thieves are sufficiently acute to leave good Cotton near the surface, and stow away the rubbish as near the centre as possible.

14. Satisfied with the samples produced, one of our leading merchants, say the Honorable Rustomjee Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, purchases through his agent 50,000 bales, and sends them for compression. They are then opened, and their contents spread out to view. It is then discovered that many of the bales are filled with stones or rubbish; and they are seized, under Section 8, by the Inspector. The question then arises, what is the Inspector to do? He has no doubt, detected a "person offering for compression Cotton adulterated or deteriorated" and the law literally, whatever it may do in spirit, leaves him apparently no discretion except to prosecute.

15. I have thus accounted for 80 per cent of the adulteration; have attempted to show the impossibility of punishing the actual perpetrators, and the hardship of punishing, under Section 8, innocent purchasers of adulterated Cotton. Admitting what I have advanced to be true, conviction is forced on the mind that as long as the Cotton is unreservedly intrusted to notorious thieves, so long will systematic pilfering and adulteration, varied with occasional robbery on a large scale, seriously interfere with our Cotton trade.

16. And it cannot be too clearly explained that no surveillance at the presses in any way affects the sailors, or prevents them from doing again what they have been always in the habit of doing. The theory therefore that pressure in Bombay will really be pressure everywhere, by the process of "trying back" (to quote, I believe, the Honourable Mr. Scott's expression,) is, I submit, unsound. The break in the chain caused by the employment of irresponsible and unconcerned carriers is fatal to this view of the subject.

17. As regards the remaining 20 per cent of adulterated Cotton, my information and experience lead me to believe that about half occurs in the interior and about half in Bombay. In the interior, where towns and villages are small, and the system of Patells, Tullatees, and District and Village Officers brings every one more or less under the eye of the Police, it is tolerably easy to find out what individuals are doing; and in the interior therefore I have no doubt that Cotton adulteration, which in truth is partly occasioned by the careless perfunctory manner in which the Cotton is picked, cleaned, and packed, can be almost stopped.

18. But in Bombay, with its 700,000 inhabitants, not much can be done; for I am assured by Europeans and Natives whose opinions are entitled to weight that as a rule the inferior brokers who deteriorate Cotton do not send it for compression to the Presses. They unrip the bales, extract good Cotton, substitute stones and rubbish, and then, having restitched the bales, they send them into the Bombay market for sale.

19. In the same way therefore that the honest merchant unwittingly purchases bales adulterated by sailors, does he, though to a lesser degree, unwittingly purchase bales adulterated in Bombay. And in my opinion it would be very hard if Section 8 of Act IX. of 1863 was held to be applicable to a man in such a case.

20. I have before shown that the crimes mentioned in Sections 2 and 3 were punishable more severely under the Indian Penal Code and Regulation III. of 1829 than they are under the new Law. The same evidence that was formerly required is still necessary; convictions therefore for fraudulently packing or fraudulently selling adulterated Cotton can hardly be expected to be more frequent now than they were before. Cotton frauds therefore will not be affected, I think, one way or the other by those Sections.

21. If the Act had ruled that the owner of every Press was liable to fine and imprisonment if any adulterated Cotton was pressed on his premises, the Law would have been effectual—that is to say, it would have stopped Cotton frauds, and possibly the Cotton trade. But this responsibility was, on the representations of the owners of Presses, thought unfair, and was not imposed. The only Clause therefore on which any definite action can be taken is Section 8, and as regards that Section the following points must be clearly settled :—

1. Are persons who offer adulterated Cotton for compression, though innocent of all knowledge as to its adulterated character, liable to prosecution ?

2. If this is answered in the negative, and a guilty knowledge is deemed essential, how can the Inspector prevent the compression and transmission to England of the adulterated Cotton in question, as no Cotton can be confiscated except after the owner has been criminally convicted ?

3. Who is to assume the responsibility of deciding prior to prosecution whether a guilty knowledge exists or not ?

4. If, however, the first question is answered in the affirmative, and it is ruled that every one who offers Cotton for compression does so at his own risk, what course can be taken in subsequent cases if the trying Magistrate declines to convict except a guilty knowledge is proved ?

And lastly, what course is to be followed if the Magistrate, applying the rule of "*caveat emptor*," convicts, and the merchants thereby become so frightened that they offer no more bales for compression ?

22. These are some of the difficulties which must occur however the Act is applied. If it is applied lightly they will not of course be

so great as they will be if it is applied vigorously. By vigorously I mean if European Inspectors are placed at each Press, with orders to examine every bale offered for compression.

23. But such vigorous application is not intended by Government or desired by the merchants. It has been decided that the pressure must be as lenient as possible; that is to say, in other words, that a very small percentage of the bales offered for compression in Bombay must be tested. But I very respectfully submit that if what I have stated about the adulteration at sea is correct, an enormous quantity of adulterated Cotton will still be imported into Bombay. If therefore but five per-cent of this is examined, the usual amount of dirt, stones, and rubbish, or perhaps a little less, will again be exported to England.

24. If this does occur, the Liverpool and Manchester merchants will of course loudly complain. In previous years they have always abused the Indian Governments and Indian officials because the Cotton was dirty, not apparently perceiving that it was a mere question of supply and demand, and one in which Government could not interfere. But now the case is widely different. Government has thought the interests at stake so momentous that it has legislated on the subject, and has imposed a tax on every bale exported. The tax (four annas a bale) will probably amount this year to £25,000, which large sum of money is to be spent in attempting to eradicate Cotton adulteration in Bombay. The responsibility of applying this money properly rests with the Government, and the responsibility of stopping the frauds rests with the officers selected by Government, and the chief responsible person is the Chief Inspector.

Extract (paragraphs 1 to 8) of the Government reply to the above letter, No. 193, dated 19th January 1864.

I am directed by the Honourable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 1, dated the 4th instant, and in reply to inform you that the Cotton Fraud Bill having become law, it is now too late to discuss the defects or otherwise of that Bill, and that it is now the duty of the Government to endeavour to give effect to its provisions as far as it is in its power to do so.

2. As observed by you in paragraph 4 of your letter, Section 8 is the most important Section of the Act, and the efficiency or otherwise of the Act will much depend on the manner in which the proceedings at the Cotton presses are watched.

3. Paragraph 15 of the Resolution No, 4444, dated 12th December 1863, disposes of the question put in your 5th paragraph.

4. In the case put by you in paragraph 14 of your letter it is not probable that a conviction would be obtained even if the Inspector were to prosecute; for the owner is by the supposition an honest trader, and would, directly he discovered the adulteration, withdraw the portion so adulterated, and not offer it for compression. His offering to do so as soon as he discovered the fraud would certainly be a good defence; and His Excellency in Council conceives he could only be held guilty if, after opening the bale and finding out what it contained, he persisted in trying to get it compressed.

5. With regard to paragraph 15 of your letter, the Governor in Council desires me to observe that it would no doubt be difficult, but not impossible, to discover and punish the actual perpetrators of the theft—the Tindal and Lascars and the receivers. The problem how to do this is just one of those which Government hope will be solved in the course of the present inquiries, and that it is capable of being solved is shown by your own experience at Nowsaree and elsewhere. The remarks made in your 16th paragraph show clearly the necessity of taking steps to prevent or punish thefts and adulteration *en-route*. His Excellency in Council has no doubt that if the officers appointed under the Act will apply their minds to this question, some remedy will be discovered to check these practices.

6. This observation, I am to state, also holds good with regard to the remarks in paragraph 19 of your letter.

7. That there is no want of means for putting a stop to the practices refered to by organizing an effective Water Police, even to the extent of having an official on board every Pattimar, and a Police boat in every creek where the plunder now takes place, the large estimated amount of income under the Act (*vide* your paragraph 24) proves.

8. In reference to the cases put categorically in your paragraph 21, I am directed to observe as follows :—

1. Are persons who offer adulterated Cotton for compression, though innocent of all knowledge as to its adulterated character, liable to prosecution?

1. They are of course liable to prosecution, but they ought not to be prosecuted nor convicted unless they have a guilty knowledge.

2. If this is answered in the negative, and a guilty knowledge is deemed essential, how can the Inspector prevent the compression and transmission to England of the adulterated Cotton in question, as no Cotton can be confiscated except after the owner has been criminally convicted?

2. The Inspector can easily prevent the compression and transmission. If the Cotton is not at once withdrawn, persistence in offering it would be a proof of guilty knowledge, and the Cotton might be confiscated, as a conviction under such circumstances must be certain.

3. Who is to assume the responsibility of deciding prior to prosecution whether a guilty knowledge exists or not?

3. It must depend on circumstances: any man may unwittingly offer to pass a forged note or coin; whether he had a guilty knowledge or not is decided from his conduct when the badness of the coin is noticed and from the circumstances under which the attempt was made.

4. If, however, the first question is answered in the affirmative, and it is ruled that every one who offers Cotton for compression does so at his own risk, what course can be taken in subsequent cases if the trying Magistrate declines to convict except a guilty knowledge is proved?

4. Already answered.

5. What course is to be followed if the Magistrate, applying the rule *of caveat emptor*, convicts, and the merchants thereby become so frightened that they offer no more bales for compression?

5. That will rest between the Magistrate and the traders

Extract (paragraphs 1 to 8, part of paragraph 9, and paragraphs 10 to 21) from a letter from the Inspector-in-Chief, Cotton Department, to Government, No. 18, dated 18th February 1864, with Appendices A and B.

As promised in paragraph 6 of my letter No. 11, dated the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report on the method by which I trust the Cotton robberies and adulterations for which Bombay is notorious may be stopped.

2. It may be as well to point out here the pecuniary means at the disposal of Government for these objects. Under the provisions of Section XIII. of Act IX. of 1863, a fee of four annas on every cotton bale exported "to any port or place other than in British India" is to be levied by the Custom House officers from and after the 1st of February 1864. This money is to be expended solely in carrying out the Cotton Frauds' Act. The export from the Bombay Presidency from the 1st of February 1864 to the 1st of February 1865 will, I am informed by the chief merchants, amount at the very lowest computation to 1,200,000 bales. In that interval therefore the tax will realize a sum of Rs. 300,000; and within this sum the annual expenditure must be kept. The fees received from the owners of Presses for the grant of Licences, the fines exacted for breaches of the law, and the proceeds arising from the disposal of confiscated cotton, are also under Section XIV. to be carried to the credit of the "Cotton Improvement Fund." A fee of two annas is also to be levied on every half bale exported; but as the receipts from these sources cannot be accurately predicted, I have not taken them into consideration. They will, however, be very considerable.

3. Now there are three places where arrangements for the prevention and detection of thefts and adulterations must be made—

1*st*.—In the Mofussil.

2*nd*.—At sea, and in the tidal rivers.

3*rd*.—In the town and port of Bombay.

With reference to the first of these places I need not trouble Government at any length. The buildings in each collectorate where cotton is compressed are comparatively speaking few in number. Their supervision therefore will not be difficult. Thefts, moreover, do not as a rule occur there, and adulterations only need be guarded against. The Inspectors, with the aid of the local Magistrates, Village and Districts Officers, will be able to keep all the Mofussil

presses under proper surveillance. From this time therefore no more adulterated cotton should find its way from the interior to the coast.

4. Having brought the cotton in a pure state to the coast, a few words must be said as to the precautions to be taken at the chief exporting bunders. These are Dhollera, Gogo, Bhownuggur, Tankaria Bunder, Broach, Surat, Randier, Wingorla, Compta, Bhewndy, and Panwell.

5. When the bales for transmission to Bombay are being placed in the boats occasional pilferings are perhaps made by the sailors. The members of the Cotton Commission who visited Guzerat in November 1862 took, in my opinion, an exaggerated view of these thefts and consequent adulterations; but with ample funds at our disposal it is better to be on the safe side. I beg therefore to suggest that the Zillah Magistrates, in whose jurisdiction the above-mentioned places are situated may be permitted to entertain two or three respectable policemen at each bunder, *solely* for the purpose of seeing that no thefts are perpetrated at the time of loading the boats. Their services might be dispensed with on the 1st of June; and they should be distinctly ordered to abstain altogether from examining whether the bales were adulterated or not. The Police Superintendents, Mamlutdars, and Fouzdars should also understand that both at the presses and the bunders they are, when their duties take them in those directions, to assist in carrying out the provisions of Act IX. of 1863, and to keep the Inspectors well informed of any irregularities of which they may hear. I do not think that any additional salary need be given to the two latter; but as in the introduction of the Summary Settlement and other important duties, zeal and tact in aiding those appointed by Government to carry out the law, should be carried to their general credit; any Mamlutdar or Fouzdar who showed particular energy and judgment might, I respectfully suggest, receive, with the sanction of Government, in each case a pecuniary reward; or perhaps Government might be pleased to vest the Revenue Commissioners with the power of granting rewards up to a certain limit. The money would, of course, be paid out of the Cotton Improvement Fund, and the reports detailing the circumstances would be furnished by the Chief Inspector.

6. I now come to rather a difficult question, namely, how to pre-

133534

vent thefts and adulterations on board the native boats on their voyage from the Guzerat and other ports to Bombay. I have in previous letters pointed out that the sailors to whom the cotton is unreservedly entrusted are notorious thieves, and descended from notorious pirates; that it has never been the custom for shippers to send supercargoes or agents to look after the cargo with each boat; that between our cotton ports and the presidency intervene the seaboard territories of independent chiefs, such as the Hubshee and the Nawab of Sucheen, whose kingdoms were gained by successful buccaneering, and whose ancestors are chiefly known in history as rapacious sea-robbers on a large scale. The consequences therefore of sending valuable property by such a route, and by an agency, might, without any special gift of prophecy, have been foretold. It is well known to every intelligent officer who has served in Guzerat, Colaba, or Rutnagherry, that in the rivers and bays of the seaboard territories of the Hubshee, Nawab of Sucheen, and other chiefs are numerous depots for stolen property. At one or other of these almost every boat from Guzerat or the south anchors, and there is secreted a portion of most cotton cargoes. I have no hesitation in saying that very few bales reach Bombay by sea that have not been tampered with on the voyage.

7. If it was a mere question of theft, Government might with propriety leave the sufferers, who showed no inclination to help themselves to bear their losses as they best might; but a more important point remains to be considered. The sailors are by their agreements compelled to deliver the bales to the consignees of the same weight and in the same apparent condition as they are entered in the invoices. Stones, dirt, and rubbish therefore are substituted for the cotton which has been stolen, and the bales are easily restitched by the sailors, and made to look as if their contents had not been pilfered. In this manner the consignees are defrauded, and by this method a very large percentage of the adulteration which has rendered the Bombay cotton generally infamous, is occasioned.

8. The proper remedy of course for this state of things would be the employment by shippers of supercargoes; but the native merchants cannot be persuaded to adopt this plan, though always ready to inveigh against the tindals and their crews. The clue to this anomaly will be found probably in the fact that, except in special cases, the loss occasioned by the adulterations falls not on the Indian ship-

per, but the English cotton-spinner. Were it not therefore for the peculiar circumstances of the cotton trade, and the inseparable connection that exists between the thefts at sea and the consequent adulterations, I would not recommend Government to interfere with the former; but considering the paramount importance of the interests at stake, such interference is highly necessary, and I beg, with diffidence, to offer the following suggestions on the subject.

9. I will first point out the means I would propose for guarding the boats which convey the Dharwar cotton from Compta and Vingorla to Bombay. Between Compta and Bombay there is only one district, where it is notorious that plunder is, in the season, of daily occurrence. This district is the territory of the Hubshee, and extends from Bankot in the south to the Ravudunda river in the north, a distance of about forty miles. Within these limits the Hubshee has uncontrolled power, and is extremely averse to the admission within his boundaries of any servant of the Indian Government, European or Native. * * *

* * * * * An energetic Inspector should be entrusted with the duty of watching, in conjunction with his officers, the suspected ports. These being properly guarded, stolen cotton could not be smuggled into his country, and the inducement for the adulteration of Dharwar cotton would be removed.

10. The officer whom I would beg to recommend for the duty of watching these ports is the Mamlutdar of Alibagh. He is a Mahomedan of good family and reputation, and from his long residence on the borders of the Hubshee's territories is fully conversant with the work he will be expected to perform. I have entire confidence that he will, if appointed, secure the co-operation of the Hubshee, and induce that chief to be earnest in his endeavours for reform.

11. He should have under his orders a Preventive boat manned by a Tindal and 4 Sailors; and should be allowed a Naik and a couple of Peons. His salary I would fix at Rupees 250 a month; but his duties as Inspector would cease on the 1st of June, and he should then be allowed to revert to his present post of Mamlutdar of Alibagh. As a general rule the Water Police

	Rs.
Inspector	250
Hire of boat	40
Pay of one Tindal	20
Do. four Sailors at the rate of Rs. 15 per man	60
1 Naik	10
2 Peons at Rs. 7 each	14
Total...Rs.	394

Force should be under the Magistrate; but as the Hubshee is, I believe, an absolutely independent chief, I think it would be better if in this instance it were under me. The Joint Magistrate of Colaba should, however, be requested to uphold the Inspector with his advice and assistance if requisite. If this arrangement is carried out, I think the cotton from the southern ports will be sufficiently guarded, as the Custom House authorities, with their numerous bunder boats and officers at every landing-place, are quite capable of preventing our ports and harbours being turned into depôts for stolen property.

12. This then disposes of the Dharwar cotton; and it only remains to discuss the best means of watching that coming from Guzerat The territories of the Nawab of Sucheen enjoy in the north the unenviable notoriety that is here attached to the districts of the Hubshee. They lie to the south of Surat, just outside the mouth of the Taptee, and stretch down to the Lachpoor creek, a distance of about ten miles. An establishment similar to that proposed for the Hubshee's territories I would allow there. As our districts are intermingled with those of the Nawab, the selection of an Inspector and the nomination of the crew of the Preventive boat I would leave with the Magistrate of Surat. The Agent for the Honourable the Governor, through whom communication with the Nawab is carried on, should also insist on that chief doing his utmost to prevent his subjects from aiding the thieves. The inhabitants of Domus and Bhimpoor villages in particular are all notorious robbers and receivers of stolen property, and should be particularly watched.

13. A similar establishment to that proposed for the Hubshee's territories I would also give for watching the cotton boats in the Nerbudda river. The Inspector and crew should be nominated by the Magistrate of Surat. I would further place at Mr. Rogers' disposal a monthly sum of Rs. 300 for the maintenance of watchers at mouths of the Keem, Lachpoor, Nowsaree, Billimora, Balsar, and Par rivers, and any other spots which his local experience might suggest. A like sum I would place at the disposal of Mr. Oliphant, Magistrate of Ahmedabad, to watch suspicious places situated between Dhollera and Gogo on the Gulf of Cambay. Although these men and the Preventive boats should be under the Magistrates of

Surat and Ahmedabad, they should report their proceedings through the Inspectors, who should keep me well informed of everything important for me to know. All these establishments should be reduced on the 1st of June.

14. To the south of Gogo the seaboard districts of Kattiawar to their most southern point belong to different native chiefs. Over all these the Political Agent of Kattiawar, Major Keatinge, V.C., exercises great influence. I beg to suggest, therefore, that Government request him to point out to all the Princes and Thakores, whose harbours have heretofore afforded depôts for the thieves, that they must do their utmost to stop the abuse.

15. Mr. Elliot, Deputy Commissioner of Customs N. D., is fully conversant with all the malpractices of the sailors, and is determined during the current season to strain every effort to prevent the infraction of the new Customs' Act. As this law is broken whenever goods are landed at other than the authorised bunders, and the illicit traffic is necessarily carried on (if anywhere in our districts) at unauthorised landing-places where there are no Preventive Officers, his assistance will be most valuable.

16. These precautions are all I have at present to suggest, though others may be pointed out by the Collectors or Inspectors. If they are, I will again address Government. I should, however, mention here that some presses have recently been established under European management in Kurrachee and Guzerat. Mr. McIlwraith, of the firm of Nicol and Co. (to whom the Sind presses belong) has kindly, at my request, directed the officers in charge of the Kurrachee presses to assist the Inspectors, and to be very careful of the condition of the cotton offered for compression. Mr. Drennan, the Agent in Guzerat, I met a few days since, and he assured me that it was a part of his duty to see that bad cotton was not compressed on the premises under his charge. The assistance thus rendered to Government officers will be most useful. I at one time contemplated sending a policeman or two as supercargoes in charge of each boat, but there are objections to this plan when emanating from Government, which would not apply if shippers themselves resorted to the simple expedient. I will not therefore propose it for the consideration of Government

17. In order to secure the co-operation of the consignees here, I issued notices* in the daily papers requesting cotton shippers and dealers to *immediately* inform me if any cargo on its arrival appeared to have been tampered with on the voyage. The tindals and sailors at all ports of export will be informed that such notices have been issued; that all bales will now be scrutinised before delivery is taken; and that rigorous prosecution will invariably follow any fraud which may be detected. I trust that all these precautionary measures combined may have the effect of preventing any but pure unadulterated cotton reaching the town and port of Bombay.

* *Vide* Appendix A.

18. It only now remains to notice our plans here. The buildings in which cotton is compressed belong principally to our leading merchants, European and Native. On all of these I have called, and explained the nature of the law, and the spirit in which Government wish to see it exercised. From all I have received promises of hearty co-operation, advice, and assistance, and I am convinced they will do all they can to prevent adulterated cotton being pressed on their premises. There is at present but one Sub-Inspector for the town and port of Bombay on a salary of Rupees 600. I respectfully beg to suggest the appointment of another on Rupees 500 a month. The duties of the Sub-Inspectors and myself will be to visit at uncertain times the different presses, and keep ourselves informed of the condition of cotton for sale on the Green. It will also be our duty to attend at the bunders when called in to assist consignees whose cargoes have been pilfered on the voyage, and to see that no failure of justice occurs. The Commissioner of Police (Mr. Forjett) has been requested to give me the benefit of his valuable assistance and advice, should it be suspected that persons either in their own houses or other places are fraudulently adulterating or deteriorating cotton. Though it is the desire of Government to introduce the new law with caution, all deliberate frauds will be prosecuted with the utmost vigour; but our measures generally will be so conducted as to cause as little inconvenience as is possible, consistent with an efficient discharge of our duties: and all the Inspectors will be informed that long reports and letters are not so much needed as satisfactory proofs that cotton is becoming purer.

19. I hope that the rough plans I have sketched may meet with the approval of Government, and that they may prove successful·

Fortunately there is a way by which their success may be tested. I propose, with the sanction of Government, to forward copies of the Press marks used, as ordered in Section IX. of Act IX. of 1863, by the different Press Companies of Bombay, to the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow. I propose to give the Secretaries of those Chambers a brief sketch of what has been done to place our Cotton Trade on a more satisfactory footing; and I shall request them to send me in return monthly reports of the condition of the cotton pressed by each Company. These reports, I respectfully suggest should be placed by Government in the Editors' room, for the information of the public. By this plan all who are interested will know whether the Inspectors have done their duty; the Bombay Press Companies will have the satisfaction of knowing that the purity of the cotton pressed on their premises is publicly acknowledged by those alone competent to decide, viz. the cotton-spinners of Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow; and the Chief Inspector will be in a position to determine whether, in any case, it is advisable to exercise the power vested in him by law, of refusing to renew the annual license of any Company whose press-marks are still found stamped on bales of adulterated rubbish.

20. Each of the Mofussil Inspectors will require a few Peons, and possibly a Karkoon; but an establishment costing Rs. 70 or Rs. 80 a month for each will be ample. After I have heard from the Collectors I will again address Government, and state the exact establishment that should be allotted to each.

21. I beg to attach a rough sketch* of the anticipated receipts and proposed expenditure. By this it will be seen that at the close of the year there will be a large sum of money in hand, for the disposal of which I will offer a few suggestions when I have watched for some little time the practical working of the measures proposed in this letter.

* Appendix B.

APPENDIX. A.

NOTICE TO COTTON SHIPPERS AND DEALERS.

It has been ascertained that much of the cotton which is sent in native boats from Guzerat and the southern ports to Bombay is

stolen during its transit by the sailors. After the cotton has been extracted, stones, dirt, and rubbish are substituted to make up the bales to the weight entered in the invoices. The bales are then restitched by the sailors, and are made to look as if they had not been tampered with. By this means the consignees in Bombay are defrauded, and the Bombay market is rendered notorious for its adulterated cotton. It is an historical fact that the ancestors of the sailors were well-known pirates, and the sailors of the present day are in a small way not much better. It would be politic therefore for shippers to send with each boat supercargoes on their own account to look after their property; but it has never been the custom for them to do so, and up to the present time cotton worth many million pounds has been unreservedly, and with no precautions against a species of fraud almost impossible for the police to detect, annually entrusted to notorious thieves. Measures therefore are about to be undertaken by the institution of a Water Police Force, and other preventive means, to stop, if possible, the robberies at sea, and the consequent adulterations which they render necessary. The successful execution of these measures can be materially advanced by the aid of the mercantile community. It is requested therefore that when the consignees of a cargo have any suspicion that their cotton has been tampered with on the voyage, they will *immediately* apply to the undersigned. The boat and crew might also, pending the Inspector's arrival, on some pretence or other, be detained. If in any case it appears that the sailors have been guilty of theft or breach of trust on the voyage, the proper officers in Bombay will be informed. Inquiries will also be instituted through the Zilla Magistrates, whose districts contain tidal rivers and bays, where the boat may have anchored. These inquiries will probably, assisted by information derived from the Water Police and Custom House Officers, enable the undersigned to trace a boat from the cotton ports to the presidency. In such cases the stolen property will, it is hoped, be recovered, and guilt brought home to the accused. But between the cotton ports and the presidency intervene the seaboard territories of the Hubshee, and many other native chiefs. It is in these territories that most of the malpractices are perpetrated. Our relations with these chiefs do not contemplate our Police or Magisterial officers seizing criminals or stolen property in their dominions until certain formalities have been gone through. These formalities occupy some little time, and to ensure a case being properly prosecuted no unnecessary delay should occur. The necessity therefore of *immediate* intimation on the part of the consignees on the detection of fraud is so apparent that the undersigned is confident it will be invariably given.

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Chief Inspector.

Bombay, 4th February 1864.

APPENDIX B.

Rough Estimate of the probable Receipts and Expenditure in connection with Bombay Act IX. of A.D. 1863, *from the year commencing on the 1st of February* 1864 *and ending on the 31st of January* 1865.

Receipts for the Year.		Disbursements for the Year.	
4 annas a bale on 1,200,000 bales.....	Rs. 3,00,000	*Town and Port of Bombay.*	
Fees for the grant of licences, fines, proceeds from the sale of confiscated cotton, &c. &c.	20,000	Chief Inspector.....	Rs. 30,000
		Sub-Inspector.....	„ 7,200
		Sub-Inspector.....	„ 6,000
		Establishment	„ 3,600
		Total..	Rs. 46,800
Total carried forward.	Rs. 3,20,000	*Collectorates of Ahmedabad and Kaira.*	
		Inspector.....	Rs. 10,800
		Force for watching suspicious depôts up the Gulf of Cambay for the months of March, April and May, at Rs. 300 a month....	„ 900
		Establishment	„ 1,000
		Total .	Rs. 12,700
		Surat Collectorate with Broach.	
		Inspector	Rs. 10,800
		2 Preventive boats with establishments for three months, costing Rs. 400 a month.	„ 2,400

APPENDIX B.—*Continued.*

Receipts for the Year.	Disbursement for the Year.	
Total brought forward. Rs. 3,20,000	Force for watching places where cotton is pillaged from boats, mouths of rivers, &c. for three months, at the rate of Rs. 300 a month ..... Rs.	900
	Establishment ..... „	1,000
	Total.. Rs.	15,100
	Khandeish.	
	Inspector..... Rs.	9,600
	Establishment..... „	1,000
	Total.. Rs.	10,600
	Kurrachee.	
	Inspector..... Rs	8,400
	Establishment..... „	1,000
	Total.. Rs.	9,400
	Dharwar and Belgaum.	
	Inspector ..... Rs.	12,000
	Sub-Inspector..... „	6,000
	Establishment ..... „	2,000
	Total.. Rs.	20,000
	For inspection of Hubshee's territories for three months, at Rs. 400 a month.. Rs.	1,200
Total carried forward. Rs. 3,20,000	Total.. Rs.	1,200

APPENDIX B.—*Continued.*

Receipts for the Year.		Disbursement for the Year.	
Total brought forward.	Rs. 3,20,000	Two Peons at each of the exporting bunders to prevent thefts when shipping cotton, for three months..	Rs. 1,000
		Total..	Rs. 1,000
		Stationery, Contingencies, &c. &c.....	Rs. 2,000
		Expenses of collection of fees, &c.....	„ 3,000
		Grand Total..	Rs. 1,21,800
Estimated Receipts			Rs. 3,20,000
Do. Expenses			„ 1,21,800
Available balance after all expenses have been paid..			Rs. 1,98,200

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Chief Inspector.

Extract (paragraphs 1 *to* 4*) from the Government Resolution on the above letter No.* 848, *dated* 8*th March* 1864.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to approve and sanction Mr. Ravenscroft's suggestions generally, and desires that the requisite instructions should be given to have them carried out, the proceedings being reported to the Secretary of State.

2. The Governor in Council is also pleased to sanction the entertainment of Policemen, as recommended at the commencement of paragraph 5 of Mr. Ravenscroft's letter, their wages being debited to the Cotton Improvement Fund.

3. As the Customs' Department alone has the power of search at sea, the Preventive Establishments recommended in paragraphs 11 to 13 should, although paid for from the Cotton Improvement Fund, be borne on the rolls of that department, and should be placed un-

der the general control and orders of the Deputy Commissioners of the Northern and Southern Divisions respectively.

4. Another Sub-Inspector for the Town and Port of Bombay, as suggested in paragraph 18, will hereafter be appointed by His Excellency in Council.

No. 105 OF 1864.

From E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.

Chief Cotton Inspector.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—May I request you will be good enough to inform me whether as far as your opportunities of judging go, cotton is less adulterated now than it was before the passing of the "Cotton Frauds Act."

2. An early answer will greatly oblige.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,

Chief Cotton Inspector.

Bombay, 16th April, 1864.

To E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.,

Chief Cotton Inspector, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 105 of 1864, dated 16th instant, and to state in reply that it is as yet rather early in the season to form an opinion whether cotton is less adulterated now than it was before the passing of the Cotton Frauds Act, but so far there appears to be a slight improvement compared with the same time last year.

The Oomrawuttee descriptions, however, this year contain an unusually large proportion of the harsh short stapled kind, commonly known here as Berarce and which is extremely objectionable.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,

Secretary.

Bombay, 26th April 1864.

No. 132 of 1864.

From E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.

Inspector in Chief Cotton Department.

To the Secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your letter, No. 44 dated 26th instant, and am glad to find, that notwithstanding the short period that has elapsed since the introduction of the "Cotton Frauds Act," an improvement in the condition of the cotton has been observed by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce. It will, I am confident, be gratifying to the Members of that Chamber to be informed that very little inconvenience has been occasioned to the Bombay Press owners, and that the Inspectors are much indebted to those gentlemen for their cordial co-operations in preventing cotton adulterations.

2. In your second paragraph you say, that the Oomrawuttee and Beraree descriptions of cotton are much mixed this year. I do not wonder at your having noticed this. But you probably are not aware that Berar, including Oomrawuttee, is in no way under the Bombay Government; and, therefore, the "Cotton Frauds Act," which was passed by the Bombay Government, for the Bombay Presidency, is not in force there. Berar, originally belonged to the Nizam of Hyderabad. It was then ceded to the British Government; and is now ruled by the Resident at Hyderabad, who is subordinate not to the Bombay Government, but to His Excellency the Viceroy. Your having notified the fact that the Oomrawuttee and Berar varieties are mixed, is a gratifying proof that in our districts, where Bombay Act IX of 1863 is in force, illegal mixing of two varieties of cotton in one bale has been prevented.

3. In conclusion may I request you will be good enough to explain to any Members of the Chamber who may take an interest in the cotton trade, that any suggestions or advice they may find time to offer, will be taken into careful consideration. As regards the Oomrawuttee and Berar cotton being mixed, Government will be respectfully requested by me to enter into communication with Mr. Yule, C. B., Resident at Hyderabad.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

Bombay, 28th April 1864.

No 170 of

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—In continuation of para. 3rd of my letter, No 132 of the 28th ultimo, I have the honor to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying copy of the Government Resolution, No. 1833 of the 10th instant.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

Bombay, 17th May 1864.

(Cotton.)

No. 1833

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the Inspector in Chief Cotton Department No. 131, dated 28th April 1864. Forwarding copy of a correspondence with the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and requesting to point out to the Resident at Hyderabad the desirability of Oomrawuttee cotton being kept pure and unmixed.

RESOLUTION.—Copies to be forwarded to the Resident at Hyderabad, for the adoption of such measures as he may think advisable to prevent the Oomrawuttee cotton from being mixed, as pointed out by the Chamber of Commerce at Bombay.

(Signed) H. E. JACOMB,
Offg. Under-Secretary to Govt.

To the Inspector in Chief Cotton Department.

Bombay Castle, 10th May 1864.

Note.—The necessary communication has been made to the Resident at Hyderabad.

No. 188 OF 1864.

From E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

To the Secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward copy of a Circular letter addressed by me to the Chambers of Commerce of Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and shall be obliged by your placing it before the Bombay Chamber of Commerce at your early convenience, —I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

No. 154 of 10th May.

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

Bombay, 26th May 1864.

No. 154 OF 1864.

From E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.
Inspector in Chief Cotton Department.

To the Secretaries of the Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool, Glasgow and Manchester.

SIR,—You are probably aware, that a law was passed last year by the Bombay Government, to prevent, by means of Inspectors and other methods, the adulterations in cotton for which the Bombay Presidency has hitherto been notorious. This law came into operation on the 1st of February 1864; and is still in force.

Act IX of 1863.

2. Under Section IV. no cotton-press can now be established or worked without a license, the issue of which depends on the reasonable discretion of the officer empowered by law to grant such licenses. And by Section IX. licensees must stamp on every bale pressed on their premises, a distinguishing mark. All the cotton exported from this Presidency to Europe, is, excepting the small quantity sent from Kurrachee, both pressed in, and exported from Bombay. In Guzerat, Dharwar, and the other cotton growing districts, the presses, where they exist, are very inferior, and entirely unfit for pressing cotton for export. Hence it is in Bombay that the strictest surveillance is requisite—though the Inspectors in the interior are very useful in making tours through the cotton districts, and seeing that the provisions of the Act are generally observed.

3. The names of the licensed Press Companies in Bombay, and the distinguishing marks used by each, are shewn in the accompanying Appendix. I shall be much obliged if you will be good enough, as soon as the condition of the cotton pressed in and exported from Bombay, subsequent to the 1st of February 1864 is known in England, to inform me, whether, in the opinion of the Chamber, it is less adulterated than it was formerly. The distinguishing marks on each bale will show by whom the cotton was pressed; and you will thus be enabled to inform me of the relative purity of the cotton turned out by each Company.

4. The Press owners of Bombay, I should mention, have done all in their power to aid the Inspectors in carrying out the provisions of the law. I feel very confident, therefore, that the crop now in course of exportation has been less adulterated or deteriorated than the crop of any previous season. I am naturally anxious that the home public should endorse this opinion. It is on this account I am induced to trouble you at some length, with the following explanations, which, in justice to the Bombay Inspectors and Press owners, should be borne in mind by European cotton spinners, when instituting comparisons between the state in which American and Indian cotton reaches Europe.

5. It is, of course, well known that New Orleans cotton, owing to the length and strength of its staple, is better suited than the Indian, to the English cotton spinner. Argument on this subject, therefore, is unnecessary. The points which I am desirous of bringing prominently to notice are as follows:—

1. The cotton seed in some of our finest districts became mixed some years ago, without any fault on the part of the cultivators. Hence, at this moment, different varieties of cotton are found growing in the same fields. Under these circumstances they must of course be pressed in the same bales. Now, *fraudulent* packing of two varieties of cotton in one bale, is, under Section 2 of Act 9 of 1863, a penal offence; and is one of the breaches of the law, which it is the business of the Inspectors to stop and punish. But packing two varieties of cotton in one bale, as these cultivators, in some cases, must do, is not, with the explanation just given, fraudulent. The Inspectors in such instances cannot legally interfere. Some

cotton so mixed, will, therefore, in this, as in former years, be exported to Europe. The picking has, in these mixed fields, been conducted, it is true, with great care; and all the legal precautions that could have been taken, to prevent two varieties being packed in one bale, have been adopted. But still some mixed bales, though less than hitherto, have passed through the Presses, and will probably be noticed in Liverpool. The explanations now offered should then be remembered; and carelessness in the discharge of their duties, or disregard of their good name as merchants, should not be imputed to the Inspectors or Press owners. It is with great satisfaction that I am able to report that Dr. Forbes, who is, I believe, known to some Members of the Chamber has made provision for an ample supply to the cultivators, of pure unmixed seed before the commencement of the next sowing season. The cultivators are, of course, delighted at his arrangements; as by using pure seed, they can, with less trouble, raise larger crops than hitherto. In future years, therefore, I confidently hope that only unmixed cotton will be raised and exported; and thus one of the great blemishes of our trade, and one which is unknown, I believe in America, will be removed.

The second point in which I wish to explain the difference between New Orleans and Indian cotton relates to the way in which the cotton of the two countries is cleaned, before compression and exportation. In America, the whole of the cotton is ginned by machinery unsurpassed in the world. It eliminates every particle of dirt, seed, or leaf, without, in any way injuring the staple. Whereas in India, throughout a very large extent of our most important cotton districts, the means for cleaning cotton, if they exist at all, are of the very rudest description, and belong to an age when the inhabitants of the British Isles were accustomed to paint their bodies, and walk about naked. During many years residence in Guzerat, I had frequent opportunities of watching the working of the native cleaning machines, and the only wonder in my mind always was, how they effected the little they did do. Of course cotton passed through them could not possibly be clean. When, therefore, subsequent to the passing of the Act, such bales were offered in Bombay for compression, a question was

at once raised, whether according to law, they were contraband or not. After careful consideration, I came to the conclusion that the law was intended to prohibit and punish wilful adulterations; and was not intended to demand from cultivators that with the rudest of implements, they should send down their cotton in a state only attainable in America, by the use of admirable machinery. Had I decided otherwise, and had I refused to allow cotton to be pressed until it had been properly ginned, I should have been exacting impossibilities. Such a measure also would, in my opinion, have been illegal; and would undoubtedly have stopped three-fourths of the cotton trade of this Presidency. I beg, therefore, that persons accustomed to compare Indian and New Orleans cotton will bear these very important considerations in mind. I am happy to be able to add, that, owing to Dr. Forbes's endeavours, Sawgins for cleaning cotton are becoming popular in India, and are now being largely imported from Europe. When their use becomes general, which I am confident will shortly be the case; and when the cultivators are in possession of efficient Churkas suitable for those varieties of cotton which are too tender for the Sawgin; and when they have sufficient quantities of pure seed, Indian cotton will vie in purity with any in the world. When these very feasible changes are really accomplished facts, the blemishes of our trade, which are beyond the reach of the law, will no longer exist.

3. The third point which I wish to impress on the Chamber, relates to pickings, or refuse cotton. Bales of these materials have always been pressed in Bombay, and exported to Europe. The subject, of course, had, at an early date, my attention. At first, I thought of not allowing such cotton to be pressed on the ground that it was adulterated. It was then pointed out to me by practical men acquainted with the home trade, that Liverpool brokers always examined bales before they purchased or took delivery, and that it was, therefore, impossible for dishonest persons to pass off on them bales of pickings, under the pretence that they were bales of good cotton. I was further informed, that from the very nature of the cotton trade in Bombay out of every large supply of cotton brought to the Presses, there must be some pickings which, though

useless in India, were very useful in Europe for paper making and other purposes, apart from spinning. On these considerations I allowed them to pass without hindrance. I beg that this may be clearly understood, as if it is supposed that palpable rubbish could be smuggled clandestinely through the Presses, the reputation of both Press owners and Inspectors would suffer.

6. If due allowance is made for the three points noticed, I feel confident that this year's crop will be found infinitely purer than the crop of any previous season. I fully believe also, that owing to the elaborate precautions taken in the cotton growing districts, and the cordial co-operation of the Bombay Press Companies, fraudulent adulterations as well as dishonest admixture of cleaned and uncleaned cotton, or cotton of different varieties in one bale, will be found to have been reduced to a minimum. But this belief can only be satisfactorily tested in England when the bales are fully examined, I trust, therefore, that you will, at an early date, lay this letter before the Chamber, and solicit from those Members interested in the cotton trade, an expression of their opinion.

7. I need scarcely add that any suggestions from the Chamber will, if practicable, be at once acted upon; and any information or explanation relative to any branch of the cotton question, will, if possible, be promptly furnished.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

(True Copy) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Inspector in Chief Cotton Dept.

Bombay, 10*th May* 1864.

APPENDIX.

Showing the names of the Licensed Press Companies in Bombay, and the distinguishing marks used by each.

NAMES.

1. Fort Press Company, Limited.
2. Apollo Cotton Press Company.
3. Bombay Hydraulic Press Company.

4. Akbar Cotton Press Company, Limited.
5. Colaba Press Company.
6. Framjee Cowasjee Patent Press Company.

PRESS MARKS.

I. FORT PRESS.
II. APOLLO.
III. B. H. P. Company.
IV. AKBAR COTTON PRESS.
V. COLABA PRESS COMPANY.
VI. F. C. P. P. COMPANY.

COTTON ROBBERIES IN THE BROACH AND SURAT RIVERS.

No. 1666 OF 1864.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—I am desired to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 64, dated the 15th June 1863, in which you point out the necessity for the adoption of measures with a view to the repression of Cotton robberies from boats in the Surat and Broach rivers.

2nd. In reply, I am desired to forward for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin and also of the final orders of Government on the above subject as conveyed in a letter from the Secretary.

Letter from Mr. Under-Secretary West, to the Government Solicitor, No. 1426, dated 27th May 1863.
2. Reply of Government Solicitor forwarding opinion of Advocate General, dated 15th June 1863.
3. Resolution of Government Judicial Department, No. 1924, dated 14th July 1863.
4. Report of Commissioner of Police N. D. No. 1205, dated 11th Nov. 1863 and accompaniments.

Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department, No. 924, dated the 14th March to the address of the Inspector in Chief Cotton Department.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 23rd May 1864.

No. 1426 OF 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Government Solicitor, Bombay.

SIR,—The subject of Cotton Robberies from boats in the Surat and Broach rivers has recently engaged the attention of Government, and with a view to prevent such robberies as much as possible, it has been proposed to establish a river Police at the above-mentioned places, and to defray the cost of it by levying a small export fee of two annas per bale on all exports of cotton from Surat and Broach.

2, The above fee, it has been suggested, should be levied by Municipal agency under Act 26 of 1850, but as it appears doubtful whether this function can legally be imposed on, or exercised by, the Municipal Commissioners, I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will have the goodness to obtain and favor Government with the Advocate General's opinion on the subject.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. WEST,
Offg. Secy. to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 27th May 1863.

No. 364 OF 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Hon'ble H. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose a copy of the opinion of the Advocate General upon the subject of the levy of a duty on the export of cotton from Surat and Broach for the maintenance of a river Police referred to in Mr. Under-Secretary West's letter No. 1426 of the 27th ultimo.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) J. P. BICKERSTETH,
Solicitor to Government.

Bombay, 16*th June* 1863.

No. 29 OF 1863.

OPINION.

1. I understand that Government has established a River Police at Surat and Broach to prevent the robberies that occur in Cotton boats on the Surat and Broach Rivers, and that to defray the cost of such Police it is proposed to levy a small export fee of two annas per bale on all exports of cotton from Surat and Broach through the agency of the Municipal Commissioners of those Towns. That cannot, I think, be legally done.

2. The Municipal Commissioners of Surat and Broach have, it appears, the right of levying taxes under Act No. 26 of 1850 for the purposes mentioned in the 2nd Section of that Act, and the purposes mentioned in the 2nd Section are stated to be "the making "better provision for making, repairing, cleaning, lighting, or "watching any public streets, roads, drains, or tanks, or for the "prevention of nuisances, or for improving the said Town or su. "burb in any other manner." I do not think that the establishment of a river Police at Surat and Broach can, by any reasonable construction, be considered as a purpose within the meaning of the above words of the 2nd Section.

3. Another objection is this. The River Police being established by Government, and not by the Commissioners of the Towns of Surat or Broach, I do not think the Commissioners have power to tax the Municipality for the purpose of providing a fund to maintain such River Police.

4. I think the doubt suggested in the last para of Mr. Under-Secretary West's letter, No. 1426 of 1863, dated 27th May 1863, as to the legality of imposing on the Commissioners the duty of levying the above fee is well founded. They have not, in my opinion, the power of levying such export fee, as proposed, to defray the expenses of the River Police.

(Signed) ARTHUR J. LEWIS,
Advocate General.

Bombay, 15th June 1863.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) J. P. BICKERSTETH,
Solicitor to Government.

No. 1924 of 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Letter from the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce No. 64' dated 15th June 1863.

On the subject of Cotton robberies in the Surat and Broach Rivers.

Ditto from the Solicitor to Government No. 364, dated 16th June 1863.

Submits the opinion of the Advocate General on a proposal to levy a duty on the export of Cotton from Surat and Broach for the maintenance of a River Police.

RESOLUTION.—Under the opinion of the Advocate General it is clear that the proposed fee on each bale of cotton leaving Surat and Broach cannot be levied without a legislative enactment. The Chamber of Commerce is now of opinion that the Imperial Government should bear the expense of the proposed water Police, and that the cost should not be imposed on the interest protected.

The Honorable the Governor in Council thinks it will probably be sufficient if an efficient River Police be established at Surat and Broach. The Commissioner of Police N. D. should be requested to submit a statement of what in his opinion, will be an efficient River Police, detailing its strength, constitution, command and cost. On receiving this report, the Honorable the Governor in Council will determine whether the cost should be imposed by enactment on the Cotton traffic, or whether it should be borne by Government, and either legislate, or address the Government of India on the subject.

(Signed) H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

To, The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.
The Commissioner of Police N. D.
Bombay Castle, 14th July 1863.

No. 1205 OF 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To W. H. HAVELOCK, Esq.

Officiating Secretary to Government.

SIR,—On the receipt of Government Resolution No. 1924, dated 14th July last, Mr. Ellis called upon the Magistrate of Surat to devise, in consultation, with the Superintendent of Police of that Zillah, and submit a scheme for the organization of a Water Police for the Nerbudda and the Taptee.

Suppression of robberies of Cotton on board of Buttalus in the Taptee and Nerbudda River.

2. Mr. Ravenscroft's report is appended in original together with its accompaniment.

No. 539 30th July 1863.

3. Six boats are proposed for employment during the fair season viz. two for the Taptee and four the Nurbudda, each being manned with a complement of crew as per margin. Supposing that these boats were kept up for nine months in the year, the total expense to Government would amount to Rupees 4,590 per annum, besides the cost of the maintenance of those boats and the immediate outlay in their purchase.

	Pay.
1 Tindal	15
7 Lascars at 10 each...	70
Rs...	85

4. Mr. Ellis considered that the object in view did not quite warrant so large an expenditure, especially as it is well known that boat robberies are carried on to as great an extent along the coast below the Nerbudda and the Taptee as in those rivers themselves, and he therefore addressed the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, to ascertain whether the Custom House Agency at Surat and Broach could be made use of in any way to assist the Police in the detection of the robberies. Mr. George Inverarity has replied as follows :—

No. 2412, 28th September 1863.

"In my opinion it is not expedient the Custom House and "Police should be soldered together for the purpose of "preventing the robberies complained of, the two Depart- "ments act under different laws and under different offi- "cers, and no boats can be spared from this Department "for the special use of the Police.

"2. Such aid as can independently be afforded by the "Custom House when carrying out on its own account

"the provisions of Section XIII of Act VI of 1863, will
"be cheerfully extended to the Police."

5. I am informed by Mr. Percival that Mr. Ellis before his departure on leave wished Mr. Ravenscroft's proposals to be submitted to Government for sanction, as no other arrangement is practicable.

6. Mr. Ellis is strongly of opinion that Government should not be called upon to bear the cost of the River Police, which is raised entirely for the benefit of the cotton trade. It is not to protect the trade against ordinary robbery or theft; but against a particular kind of theft, which the Merchants themselves are able to prevent by sending supercargoes with each consignment of cotton. Mr. Ellis's views on this point have been laid before Government in his letters No. 1603 of 8th November 1862.

7. Copy of a letter from Mr. E. P. Robertson proposing to prohibit boats touching at unauthorized ports is forwarded.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) W. HART,
Police Commissioner, S. D. in charge N. D.

Poona, 11*th Nov.* 1863.

No. 524 OF 1863.

From E. P. ROBERTSON, Esq,
Acting Magistrate, Tanna.

To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.,
Police Commissioner N. D.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your endorsement No. 756, dated 3rd July 1863, forwarding Copy of Government Resolution No. 1538 dated 13th June 1863. As I have served for some time in the Customs' Department N. D. and have a considerable, and I believe accurate knowledge of the Coast, rivers, and harbours on the Guzerat coast, and further as I was the officer that proposed that boats should be forbidden to touch on the Coast on their way to Bombay except when compelled by "stress of weather," and as I prepared and submitted a Draft Act for the car-

rying out of the above measure, I trust I may be excused offering, a few observations on the subject of the Government Resolution.

2. I do not at all apprehend that the plea "stress of weather" could be pleaded with success on many occasions.

1st. When once the season has opened the seas on this coast are generally calm and safe, and severe and stormy weather is of but rare occurrence. In the Northern Division the Customs Coasting boats are always out on the Coast, and on any occasion the evidence of these boat people could be taken as to the weather at sea on any particular day. Each of these boats has a Carkoon on board, and these Carkoons could, with advantage, be compelled to keep a register of places visited and the state of the weather; in fact a kind of log should be kept. Moreover the different Customs' Officers in charge of the Ports can always tell when there has been stress of weather, not one boat only but several on such occasions would take refuge in these ports,

2. The regular and authorised ports along the Coast are numerous there being an authorised port at least every ten or fifteen miles. In case of stress of weather vessels would seek these larger and safer ports in preference to entering any of the smaller and more unapproachable creeks.

3. There is no advantage to be gained in prohibiting boats from touching at intermediate authorised ports. The prohibition should be against touching at intermediate and unauthorized ports. The whole of the coast from Gungwa opposite Cambay to Damana is so intersected by creeks and impassable mud flats that an increased Police there will be of little or no use. From my own experience both in the Customs' Department and as an Assistant Magistrate in the Broach and Surat Collectorates, I am forced to the opinion that the villagers along the Coast are largely interested as sharers in all the robbery that takes place. In most cases the villages are some two or three miles from the place where boats anchor, and the heads of the villages, when questioned, would always plead that they had never seen or heard of the vessel.

4. I beg respectfully to remark that in my humble opinion were the Act recommended by me to prevent the touching at intermediate unauthorized ports made law, it would notwithstanding the seeming difficulty regarding "stress of weather" at once meet the end

required, and boat robberies along the coast would be no more heard of

5. Trusting that the interest I have long taken in this subject may excuse the above remarks.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. P. ROBERTSON,
Acting Magistrate.

True Copy.

(Signed) J. F. FERNANDEZ,
Assistant Commissioner of Police N. D.

Tanna Magistrate's Office, 26th August 1863.

No. 539 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

From E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.
Acting Magistrate of Surat.

To B. H. ELLIS, Esq.
Police Commissioner, Northern Division, Poona.

SIR,—I have had the honor to receive your Memorandum No. 820, dated the 18th of July 1863 with accompaniment; and, as requested by you, beg to forward the following scheme for the organization of a Water Police for the Taptee and Nurbudda.

2. In the Taptee two boats should be continually plying during the open season, from the Town of Randeir to the mouth of the river. Randeir is about two miles higher up the river than Surat, and is a thriving port from which large quantities of cotton are sent. The purchase money of each boat would probably amount to Rupees 400, and a boat's crew should consist of a Tindal and seven men. The pay of the Tindal should be Rupees 15, and that of each of the crew Rupees 10 per month.

3. The distance of Broach from the Gulf of Cambay is nearly double that of Randeir from the sea; and the banks of the Nurbudda are lined with villages. For the Nurbudda, therefore, four boats would be necessary. The purchase money of the boats, and the pay of the crews would be as above shewn.

4. Police Chowkees used not, I think, to be built on the banks of the two rivers; but two intelligent trustworthy men of the Police force should be posted in all villages where robberies are reported to take place.

5. I beg respectfully to draw attention to my previous letters on the subject, and to para. 2 of Government Resolution No. 926, dated 20th March 1863, portion of which is as follows:—

"No system of river or harbour Police, will, the Governor "in Council believes, effectually check a practice carried on "in such a manner, and the only remedy which His Excel- "lency in Council can see for it, is the employment, as sug- "gested by Mr. Ravenscroft, of trustworthy and proper "supercargoes to take charge of the goods from port to port."

6. I beg in conclusion to forward copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Police on the subject, from which it will appear that his opinion tallies with those expressed in my former letters. Within the last ten days I have conversed with many shippers of goods; and they all positively assert that when the Railroad is completed to Bombay no one will send goods to Bombay by sea, who can do so by Rail.—I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Acting Magistrate.

Surat Magistrate's Office, 30th July, 1863.

No. 259 OF 1863.

To the Magistrate of Surat.

SIR,—With reference to your Memo. No. 521 of the 22nd instant, with accompaniments, and our conversation on the subject thereon referred to, I have the honor to state that the matter has had my attention for months past, and I have come to the conclusion that a river police without an auxiliary coast police would be but of little use and cost a very large sum of money.

2. In addition to 19 miles of the Taptee and 40 miles of the Nurbudda, *i.e.* 59 miles (which must be doubled; both banks requiring watching) there are more than 120 miles of sea coast with

numerous creeks, at any point of which in fair weather goods of moderate weight might be landed.

3. There are upwards of sixty villages in the British territory in which the robbery of cargo is a trade—and nothing but a highly paid and numerous force would be efficient towards its prevention. This force with boats would cost a very considerable sum.

4. We may reasonably suppose that in the course of another year the chief produce of Guzerat will be conveyed by railway to Bombay.

5. The prevention of boat robberies then principally concerns such places as Bhownuggur and parts on the Kattiawar Coast, and such persons who though within reach of the railway prefer sending their goods by boat.

6. It does not appear to me, therefore, advisable, that the State should be burdened with a heavy charge, the benefit of which would affect a comparatively small number of individuals.

7. The tindals and boatmen are notorious thieves, and this fact is patent to merchants, who still persist in sending their goods in sole charge of these men.

8. I would, therefore, humbly suggest, that the merchants should look out for their own interests, and send their goods in charge of supercargoes whom they can trust, a plan which, I think, would be far more efficacious than a large water police force.—I have, &c.

(Signed) J. S. CARR, Captain,
Superintendent of Police.

True Copy.

(Signed) E. W. RAVENSCROFT,
Acting Magistrate.

Surat, Police Office, 25th July 1863.

No. 924 of 1864.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To E. W. RAVENSCROFT, Esq.

Inspector in Chief Cotton Department.

SIR,—In continuation of the orders of Government passed on your letter No. 18, dated the 18th ultimo, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to forward the papers noted in the margin.

Letter from the Commissioner of Police N. D., No. 1205 dated 11th November 1863, with accompaniments.
Copy of the Precis of Correspondence on the subject of the River Police and Suppression of Cotton robberies in the Taptee and Nurbudda Rivers.
Judicial Department, Camp.: 671-63.

2. In doing so I am directed to observe that the Honorable the Governor in Council agrees with Captain Carr, the Superintendent of Police, Surat, in opinion that the Merchants should make their own arrangements to guard Cotton from the port of shipment to Bombay, and that Government deny the position of the Chamber of Commerce that it is the duty of Government to protect this property from robbery.

3. It is requested that the original correspondence accompanying this letter may be returned after perusal.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) A. D. ROBERTSON,
Offg. Chief Secy. to Govt.

True Copy. H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secy. to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 14th March 1864.

COTTON PRIZES.

No. 3832 OF 1863.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—With reference to paras. 3 and 5 of your letter, No. 146, dated 29th November 1862, I am directed to forward, for the information of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying Extract from the proceedings of Government, No. 3986,

On the subject of the samples of Cotton sent by Mr. Bethcome, of Kurrachee, for competition for prizes.

dated the 23rd October 1863, on this subject.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

J. B. RICHEY,
Offg. Under-Secy. to Govt.

Bombay Castle, 30th October 1863.

No. 3698.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd October 1863.

Read the following letter from the Commissioner in Sind to His Excellency the Honorable Sir H. B. E. Frere, K.C.B., Governor and President in Council, Bombay, No. 156, dated 30th April 1863.

In reply to Mr. Acting Chief Secretary Robertson's letter No. 4495, dated 13th December last, requesting me to ascertain and report whether Mr. Bethcome, who sent certain samples of cotton from Sind to compete for the cotton prizes offered by Government, had complied with the conditions of the Resolution of the Government of India, as modified by the Resolution of the Bombay Government, No. 4643, dated 24th October 1861, I have the honour to report that Major Southey, lately acting as Collector of Kurrachee, has, after inquiry, reported "that the conditions laid down in the Government Resolution appear to have been complied with" " * * that is to say :—"

"The extent of cotton cultivation has not been less than 15 acres (the area stipulated in the last-mentioned Resolution), and this area belonged to one cultivator. The cotton grown was foreign, a mixture of Egyptian and New Orleans, and Mr. Bethcome was a *bona fide* cultivator occupying a Government holding at the Mullee."

2. As from the statements made in Mr. Bethcome's letter to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, dated 5th July last, it appeared that he estimated he had obtained as much as 950 lbs. of cleaned cotton per acre from the land under cultivation, I request

ed the Collector to endeavour to ascertain whether the statements in that letter were correct.

3. The Collector has now reported as follows :—

"It is now impossible to obtain any satisfactory account of the system pursued by Mr. Bethcome during the year 1861-62, the year during which the cotton in question was grown. Mr. Bethcome was drowned in the month of December last, and neither his father nor his mother, both of whom are very old, know anything about his affairs, nor is there any other person from whom reliable information can be obtained.

"From inquiries made, the Collector is inclined to believe that the account of the method of cultivation adopted by Mr. Bethcome, is, in the main, correct; but he is at the same time convinced that the yield of 950 lbs. per acre is very much over-estimated.

"The crop of this year is unfortunately not a good one to compare Mr. Bethcome's statements by, for not only has it been much neglected since that gentleman's death, but it has also suffered from the enormous swarms of locusts that have done so much damage throughout this part of the country during this season.

"The Collector regrets he is unable to state the yield. He is informed it was not good, though at one time the crop was very promising."

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that a prize of Rupees 500 will suffice for the sample produced. There is nothing to show that any considerable quantity of cotton was produced. The Deputy Collector's certificate, dated 30th June 1862, showed that of the cultivation of 1861-62 in 30 Beegas, about one-third of the plants were bearing, the remaining two-thirds being lately sown and not expected to produce until next year.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to—

The COMMISSIONER IN SIND.

The CIVIL PAYMASTER.

The DEPUTY AUDITOR and ACCOUNTANT GENERAL.

(Signed) J. B. RICHEY,

Officiating Under-Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX F.

CUSTOMS' DUTIES.

STANDING ORDER.

No. 976.

The following telegram from the Government of India, to the Government of Bombay, is notified for information and guidance :—

"An Act has been passed in Council this day reducing the import duty on Tobacco to ten per cent *ad valorem* and on all other articles not enumerated in the Schedule A, annexed to Act eleven of sixty two, seven and a half per cent *ad valorem*, one will remain as it was. Please communicate without delay to Collectors of Customs."

The one unaltered item not being specified ; a further reference has been made, in the meantime the unenumerated articles of schedule A of Act XI of 1862 hitherto charged with 10 per cent. *ad valorem* rates may now be charged at the rate *only* of 7½ per cent.

Attention is requested to Section XXIX of Act VI of 1863, entry at the Custom House for home consumption, results from the Bill of Entry or Private Manifest directed by Section 62.

(Signed) GEORGE INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, 8th April, 1864.

No. 894 OF 1864.

True Copy forwarded for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

(Signed) GEORGE INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, 8th April 1864.

INCREASE OF ACCOMMODATION AT THE CUSTOM HOUSE.

No. 3458.

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department, dated 8th October 1863.

Read the following papers:—

Letter from Mr. George Inverarity, Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, No. 2223, dated 2nd September 1863.

I have the honour to bring to the notice of Government the urgent necessity for extended accommodation being *at once* supplied to the trade of the Port of Bombay over what now exists.

2. Your letter No. 2869 of 25th ultimo, negatives one measure of relief which I had suggested, inasmuch as the portion of the Arsenal Wharf which it is proposed to make over to the Customs will not always be available, from being capable of approach at certain states of the tide only.

3. The trade of the Port of Bombay during the year 1862-63 has approached close upon sixty millions sterling, or forty-three millions deducting Bullion, and there are many who believe with myself that it is just commencing.

4 When Government levy Customs' Duties it is right they should afford full accommodation to the trade which has to pass through the Custom House.

5. Such accommodation does not at present exist in Bombay, nor are the private Wharves which are in course of construction likely to afford any considerable relief for some time to come.

6. The complaints of merchants are therefore great, and will continue to increase with each year's progress, unless measures to remove and prevent them are adopted.

7. A Landing and Shipping Company has lately been formed in Bombay, which, when fully set in operation, will receive and despatch goods by Steam Tugs: what now takes several days to perform will thereafter be carried out in one, and the Custom House will be flooded with applications to receive and pass goods which will be beyond its power to meet, because the chief safety-valve it at present possesses of the cargo boats being slow in their delivery will be shut.

8. I believe measures are in progress for reclaiming ground for

Custom House purposes at Modee Bay, but at what time that quarter will be fully available is unknown; it shows no signs as yet of coming to maturity.

9. I have therefore respectfully to suggest that the works at Modee Bay be pushed on with the utmost despatch, and that no money which will secure this be spared; while, as a small measure of temporary relief, I have also to recommend that an additional Pier be run out into the Custom House Basin, raised either on wood or stone, as the Public Works Department may find most suitable for a temporary work, and that the Custom House Basin be immediately cleared and dredged of the mass of deposit which has accumulated within it.

10. I beg also that the Public Works Department may be authorised to erect four more Five-Ton Cranes on the Town Bunder.

11. Annexed is a copy of a letter which I have received from the Secretary to the Landing and Shipping Company, in reply to a communication I had addressed in view to obtaining the opinion, on the best measures of relief, of the Directors of that Company, who are derived from the leading firms in the place.

Letter from Mr. H. Brooke, Honorary Secretary to the Bombay Landing and Shipping Company (Limited), to Mr G. Inverarity, Commissioner of Customs, Salt, and Opium, dated 31st August 1863.

I am instructed by the Directors of the Landing and Shipping Company (Limited) to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1877 of 1863, dated 17th July.

2. The improvements in the Custom House premises and arrangements which the Directors would suggest are as follows:—

The lengthening of the Custom House Bunder to admit of a portion being available for unloading boats at all states of the tide; increasing its width to such an extent as would admit of a quay of 10 feet, a shed of 40 feet, and a road of 30 feet wide.

The supply of a sufficient number of cranes, scales, &c., to allow uninterrupted work to proceed simultaneously along the whole length of the Bunder.

The reduction of the time allowed for importers to remove their goods, or the rapid increase of fees day by day, which would answer the same purpose.

The projection of a jetty into the middle of the basin, to enable a larger number of boats to proceed with their unloading at the same time.

If the buildings and sheds now erected will admit of it, arrangements should be made that goods should enter at one side of the shed and be delivered on the other, so that no interruption may take place in the transmission through the Custom House, instead of, as at present, goods being at times buried for weeks together. It is probable, however, that little or no improvement could be effected in this Department until room is obtained to withdraw the traffic temporarily from the present sheds and buildings.

3. With these improvements, and a general increase of staff in the overtasked departments of the Custom House, the Directors believe that the business of the Port may be conducted in an orderly and business-like manner for the next two or three years, by which time, doubtless, other Bunders will be prepared to receive their share of the increased trade which may fairly be expected.

RESOLUTION.—The Public Works Department to be requested to carry out the arrangements suggested without delay, reporting as speedily as possible the probable cost of the works. The Government of India to be then addressed from the Public Works Department with a view to early sanction being given to the progress of the works in Modee Bay.

Ordered that copies of the above be forwarded to—

The COMMISSIONER of CUSTOMS, SALT, and OPIUM,

The PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT of the SECRETARIAT.

(Signed) J. RICHEY,

Officiating Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 2525 OF 1863.

True Copy forwarded for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

(Signed) GEORGE INVERARITY,

Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Custom House, 10*th October* 1863.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—The present most unsatisfactory manner of landing and shipping goods in our harbour calls, we think, for the attention of the Chamber. We refrain from commenting on the subject, and would merely request that you will have the goodness to bring this matter under the notice of the Committee of the Chamber with the view of its taking such steps as may seem best for protecting the interests of the mercantile community.

At the same time we would respectfully suggest that the mind of the Chamber be had on the subject.

We would also be glad to know if it lies within the province of the Chamber to represent to Government the great necessity there is for improving and enlarging the accommodation at the Custom House, which falls far short of the requirements of the Port.—We are, Sir, yours most respectfully,

(Signed) p. p. SOUZA, PINTO & Co.,
PAT. CHRYSTAL.

Bombay, 30th June 1864.

No. 82 OF 1864.

To Messrs. SOUZA, PINTO & Co.,

Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 30th ultimo, calling the attention to the present unsatisfactory state of the waterside business of the port.

It is quite out of the power of the Committee to supply a remedy, but they hope that the Landing and Shipping Company, when at work, will lay the foundation of an improved state of matters.

The Chamber has been in communication with the Commissioner of Customs on the necessity of enlarging the Custom House accommodation, but it appears that the Military authorities are indisposed to

give up that part of the Fort which would be necessary to render practicable the proposed alterations.—I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 5th July 1864.

CUSTOM HOUSE RECEIPTS.

No. 1834 OF 1864.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have deferred giving effect in the matter of Custom House receipts to the purport of your letter No. 78 of the 20th July 1863, because I feared that the doing so might inconvenience the mercantile community in a greater degree than was apprehended.

2. It is very desirable, however, that the Calcutta system of receipt should be adopted in this Custom House, as saving the latter time and labour in every way.

3. But before giving effect to the arrangement, I should be glad, in order to a full expression of my views, to be favoured with an interview with the Committee of the Chamber, and will be obliged by your fixing a date and hour for that purpose, should the Committee feel disposed to meet me.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, 25th July 1864.

CHEQUES FOR CUSTOMS' DUTIES.

No. 2031 OF 1864.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I have the honor to forward the accompanying Notice for the

information of the Chamber.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of Commissioner of Customs, 13th August 1864.

NOTICE.

From and after the 20th instant, merchants having permanent deposit with the Custom House can pay Customs' duties up to the amount of such deposit by Cheques upon the Bank of Bombay.

The Cheques must be made payable to the Deputy Commissioner of Customs P. D., or Bearer, and crossed "Bank of Bombay."

Cheques otherwise worded, or Cheques with erasures, will not be received, and the Cheques to be used must be those printed and issued by the Bank of Bombay.

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of Commissioner of Customs, 13th August 1864.

CARGO BOATS.

No. 1400 OF 1864.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

To The Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In view to affording some relief from the inconvenience at present experienced in the Harbour Traffic of this Port, owing to the insufficient supply of cargo boats, and the heavy demands for their use made by owners and muccadums, I have the honor to suggest for the consideration of the Chamber, whether it might not be advantageous to move the Bombay Landing and Shipping Company to secure for use, as cargo boats during the monsoon, some of the coasting craft

which will now be laid up for want of employment during the monsoon months, and which may doubtless be found in considerable numbers between this and Bassein and near Alibag.

2. If required, I should be glad to give any Agent of the Company who might be deputed to search out and engage such boats, letters to the several Custom House Officers in the localities concerned, for the supply of all assistance in their power towards the above object—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of Commissioner of Customs, 13th June 1864.

No. 76 OF 1864.

To GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1400 of 1864, dated 13th instant, and beg to hand annexed copy of the reply of the Bombay Landing and Shipping Company, Limited, to whom your letter was referred.—I have to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 18*th June* 1864.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am requested by the Directors of the "Bombay Landing and Shipping Company Limited," to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday handing a letter from the Commissioner of Customs on the subject of engaging some of the country craft now laid up in the vicinity of this port, and to state in reply that the Company has no staff available for undertaking the duty at present.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Honorary Secretary.
Bombay Landing and Shipping Company, Limited.

Bombay, 16*th June* 1864.

LANDING OF BULLION.

NOTICE.

Complaints having been received of delays caused to the landing of Treasure by the Custom House Forms, the undersigned begs to acquaint all parties concerned, that Government have been requested to add the Mazagon and Apollo Bunders to the places already appointed for the landing and shipping of Bullion and Specie, under Section X of the consolidated Customs Act, and the necessary notification may be expected in the next Official *Gazette*.

For the passing of Bullion and Specie one application only in duplicate (the Import Private Manifest prepared as usual) will hereafter be required. On the black copy the order to pass will be endorsed by the Executive Officer. The Red copy will be retained in the Custom House.

The endorsed pass will then be taken by the Importer or his Agent to the landing place, and made over to the Preventive Officer on duty, by whom the Treasure will at once be passed into Town.

It is suggested to the Managers of Banks that they keep on hand a sufficient number of Blank Import Forms, which can be filled up in a few minutes as occasion requires, and without perceptible delay in the passing of their consignments. Under existing circumstances the Contractors for landing Treasure frequently come the last thing in the day for the pass, although they may have been occupied for hours previously between the ship and the shore.

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

No. 618 OF 1864.

True copy forwarded for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of Commissioner of Customs, 5th March 1864.

TRADE RETURNS.

No. 40 OF 1864.

To GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, I have the honor to draw your attention to the great and unnecessary delay on the part of the Reporter General's Department in posting up the details of imports and exports ; the time occupied in this work (which is purely mechanical) appears to be no less than an average of 18 days.

The object of this department is presumably the information of the mercantile community, but the delay is now so great that the returns compiled by the Chamber from the Government records have become next to useless to merchants.

The Committee would feel greatly obliged by your taking steps to place the office in question in an efficient state.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 26th April 1864.

No. 1030 OF 1864.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,

Commissioner of Customs.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 40 of this date, I have the honor to request the favour of your deputing some qualified person to this office to explain the 18 days' delay alluded to, as the same is not apparent from the records of the department.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, 26th April 1864.

TRADE RETURNS.

No. 67 OF 1864.

To GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce I have the honor, with reference to previous correspondence on the subject of the delay in the Reporter General's Office, to inform you that up to yesterday the following books had not been written up to the 16th ultimo, showing a delay of 18 days.

Great Britain, 4 Vols.
France.
Hongkong.
Penang and Singapore.
Cutch.
Guzerat 1st part.
Concan 1st part.
Kurrachee.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 4th June 1864.

No. 1301 OF 1864.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.
To H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter No. 67 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the delay therein adverted to has been caused by the press of work from the preparation of annual and other statements, but the best efforts are being employed to bring up the arrears, so as to allow of the Chambers' returns being as little inconvenienced as possible.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, 6th June 1864.

No. 1584 OF 1864.

FEES AT ELPHINSTONE BUNDER.

From GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—By desire of Government I have the honor to transmit for the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce, the accompanying tables of fees which the Elphinstone Land Company propose to levy as wharfage, &c., upon goods landed at their Bunders.

2. The point upon which the opinion of the Chamber is particularly solicited is whether the proposed fees appear fair and equitable and not likely to bear with undue pressure upon the public, and general trade of this port—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) GEORGE INVERARITY,
Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, 28th June 1864.

No. 87 OF 1864.

To GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1584 of 1864 accompanied by the tables of fees proposed to be levied at the Elphinstone Bunder;—these the Committee have circulated to the Members of the Chamber inviting opinions, but without eliciting any comments.

Comparing the rates with those levied at the Liverpool Docks, the Committee find them about one-third higher—the basis of the Liverpool rates being 1s. 6d. per ton against 2s. proposed to be levied by the Elphinstone Company. There is, however, no comparison in the amount of accommodation afforded to the public. In Liverpool the ship unloads alongside a wharf in still water, there is an ample supply of cranes and sheds, and convenient egress on the land side for the conveyance of the goods to their ultimate destination in private ware-

houses. At the Elphinstone Bunder, on the contrary, boats can only approach the wharf at certain states of the tide, there are no sheds for the protection of goods, and the means of egress is up a steep hill on a dilapidated road less than 20 feet wide, involving great delay and expense. The delay and inconvenience caused to the public by the level crossing of the G. I. P. Railway forms an additional draw back to the advantages of the Bunder, and this also should be taken into consideration in fixing a tariff of rates.

When the works now in progress are completed and every convenience consistent with the nature of the harbour shall be afforded to merchants, it is probable that the rates will not be found very burdensome to the trade of the port, but at present they appear to the Committee very excessive, taking into consideration the almost total absence of the usual conveniences afforded by similar establishments in other large ports.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, 26*th July* 1864.

No. 774.

To HENRY BROOKE, Esq,
Secretary Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—We beg to thank you for Copy of a letter, No. 87, addressed by you to the Commissioner of Customs on the subject of fees levied at the Elphinstone Bunder, and beg to lay before the Committee Copy of our letter No. 770 on the same subject, pointing out what appear to us to be inaccuracies in it.—We have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

W. NICOL & Co.,
Secretaries and Treasurers.
The Elphinstone Land and Press Company Limited.

Bombay, 6*th August* 1864.

No. 770.

To GEORGE INVERARITY, Esq.,
Commissioner of Customs.

SIR,—We desire to point out an inaccuracy, as it appears to us, in the letter of the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce No. 87 on the subject of Fees levied at the Elphinstone Bunder.

It is there laid down that 2s. per ton is the rate levied at that Bunder which is incorrect, the maximum rate for the most bulky goods, in a loose state is, as you will perceive by an examination of the Tables, 4 annas per candy of 7 cwt. or 12 annas per 21 cwt. For the large articles of traffic, however, rates are much lower, say for Bales of Cotton 1 anna per bale. Piece Goods 2 annas per bale—6 annas per ton. Iron and all metals 5 annas per ton (the rate of one Rupee per ton including cranage), seed 6 at 7 annas per ton—grain the same rate, &c. &c.

We beg therefore that the statement may be corrected.

The letter also states that there are no sheds for the accommodation of Goods, which is incorrect, and there are also cranes for the convenience of the public in lifting heavy machinery &c. for which one Rupee per ton is charged.

We send for your information a scale of wharfage rates recently self-imposed in Melbourne, with our rate shewn in the margin.—We have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servants,

W. NICOL & Co.,
Secretaries and Treasurers.

The Elphinstone Land and Press Company, Limited.
Bombay, 4th August 1864.

APPENDIX G.

FIRE ENGINE ESTABLISHMENT.

To the Secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I beg to enclose herewith for the information of the Chamber, Copy of the Proceedings on the subject of increasing the efficiency of the Fire Engine Establishments of Bombay.—I remain, Sir, your's faithfully,

(Signed) H. BROOKE.

Bombay, 13th July 1864.

To Messrs. Alexander C. Brice & Co.
" Campbell, Mitchell & Co.
" Cardwell, Parsons & Co.
" Ewart, Latham & Co.
" Finlay, Scott & Co.
" Lawrence & Co.
" Leckie, & Co.
" Lyon Brothers.
" W. Nicol & Co.
" Remington & Co.
" Ritchie, Steuart & Co.
" Stenhouse & Co.
" Framjee, Sands & Co.

DEAR SIRS,—It is proposed to hold a Meeting of the Agents of Fire Insurance Companies on Monday next at 3 P. M. at the Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of considering what measures can be adopted to increase the efficiency of the Fire Brigade of Bombay —Your's faithfully,

(Signed) H. BROOKE.

Bombay, 16th June 1864.

A Meeting of the Agents of the Fire Insurance Companies was held at the Office of the Chamber of Commerce, in Bombay, 20th June 1864, at 3 P. M., to consider what measures can be adopted to increase the efficiency of the Fire Brigade of Bombay.

PRESENT:

Andrew Grant, Esq., in the Chair.

Henry Somervill, Esq.	R. McIlwraith, Esq.
Alex. Stewart, Esq.	W. G. Hall, Esq.
E. Pennell, Esq.	T. M. Davidson, Esq.
H. B. H. Turner, Esq.	James Bevis, Esq.
H. Brooke, Esq.	Alex. C. Brice, Esq.

The Chairman read an article in the *Bombay Gazette* of this day referring to the State of the Fire Engine Service of Bombay, and after much discussion the following Resolution was carried unanimously.

Proposed by R. McIlwraith, Esq., Seconded by A. Stewart, Esq.,— "That Government be addressed regarding the present state of the Fire Engine Department, and asked to appoint Members to confer with the Municipal Commissioners, and the representatives of the Fire Insurance offices, with the view of inaugurating measures to increase its efficiency."

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

To the Editor of the Bombay Gazette.

SIR,—May I presume to offer a suggestion, which, if acted upon, may not prove unprofitable to the Bombay community; at least, such is my very humble opinion. I refer to the want of an organized Fire Brigade in this town. There are certainly places where such is not required, but among the many localities I have been in, I know none in which it is so called for as in Bombay, a fact which has been admitted in your columns only during the last few days, and which has also been brought to the notice of the public the imperative necessity of an immediate reform in this particular. My fear, however, is, that this subject, allowed on all sides at the pre-

sent moment, to be all-important and a reproach to the executive of this island, will, like other equally important affairs, be absorbed and die an early death. It is only natural to suppose this, judging by the numerous antecedents we have had. The fact is that all the energies of the Bombay mercantile community are wrapt up in making large and speedy fortunes. Half a dozen gentlemen are not available in Bombay, to devote half a dozen hours to the consideration of even so serious a matter as the effective suppression of fires, which might electrify even apathetic Bombay, who may find when too late, that the prosperous island, the boast of her citizens, has become one heap of ruins, with thousands of her inhabitants blackened corpses. What London was in the year 1666, Bombay may be in the year 1866, or perhaps sooner.

Having gone thus far, in the usual circumlocutory manner of far greater men, I would, with only one prefatory anecdote, at once come to the gist of this communication, which is, that even the "half dozen gentlemen" may be excused from the *leviathan* labour before alluded to, and that, at one meeting of the mercantile community of Bombay, they may settle the matter in true business fashion in a few minutes.

The anecdote just referred to is this:—the Revd. Rowland Hill of eccentric but honoured memory, besides being a divine, was essentially a man of business. Finding his congregation one day in a more than usually sleepy and apathetic state, he paused in his discourse for a few moments, and then in a voice of screaming terror of the highest pitch, called "Fire! Fire! Fire," the words with which this letter is headed. His terrified and guilty congregation, awakened by his cries, leaped to their feet and called out, "Where, where, where?" The tale is so well known that I need not give his reply, which has been regarded as being perhaps more truthful than elegant. Be that as it may the cry of "Fire" effected the preacher's object, and it was not found necessary for him to repeat the, in in this case, only figurative expression.

At this stage, the reader will see that Rowland Hill did effectually, by his energy, render unnecessary any repetition of the unpleasant and distressing cry of "fire." He awoke the sleepers to their danger, and performed a more difficult task, one would think, than that of awakening Bombay, inasmuch as the former warning was of a spiritual character, which might be weakened by a want of faith

in the existence of the danger, while the latter is a real and palpable thing involving the most terrible consequences, the loss of fortune and the loss of life to the inhabitants of Bombay. As Bombay is not a penurious paymaster when she gets the value of her money I would have the cry of "fire" hushed, by adopting the following plan :—

A gentleman should be appointed to superintend the Bombay Fire Brigade. An untried man or such a one as would be appointed by those who would allow interest or anything but real merit to obtain it, would not do. He must be a man well known in Bombay and not likely to be here to-day and gone to-morrow; nor one who would make it the stepping stone to some other more desired post. He should be a man acquainted with the geography of Bombay in its thousands of ramifications, and knowing the language of the natives as well as the English. He should be a man of anything but weakly constitution, should possess a powerful voice and be able to command such men as the police and men of the Brigade. He should be one of those beyond the suspicion of sacrificing to the "rosy god;" never so little. He should be one of the police, as was suggested the other day, in the *Bombay Gazette*, but he should be one of those whom the rest of the Constabulary could not look upon as their junior. He should be, if possible, one who has had experience in military drill, not as one in the ranks, but as a master. This would be necessary on more than one account, for such men understand what discipline the Brigade would require, and possess a knowledge of the minutiæ to instruct subordinates in, in making the men efficient as firemen. Besides all these qualifications he should be a European, if a Londoner the better, for then he could scarcely have failed to witness the manner in which Brigadier Braidwood did business. Without these qualifications none should be given precedence. If such a man could be found, the community could afford him a high salary, although the duties of the situation at the worst, at the starting point, need occupy him little more than two hours a day, except on extraordinary occasions. The selection of the Superintendent would be the more satisfactory, if it fell on a man of more than ordinary parts, and one who already holds a public appointment, is well known to the public, who has fulfilled his duties *sans peur et sans reproche*, and doubly so, if one

could be found who deserves promotion at the hands of Government, but who, under peculiar circumstances, has not met with that promotion, although every way qualified to fill the higher grade. It would be, in such a case, a graceful act of Bombay to confer on such a one the post, which he might hold with his present one.

This is the hint then which I would offer, and I leave it to Bombay to discover the gentleman to whom I refer, which, as he is known far and wide over the Island, will not be a difficult task. His sense is such that he may be given *carte blanche* to organize at once the "Bombay Fire Brigade," and it will only be necessary after the first meeting to appoint Auditors, who would volunteer to look over the accounts, leaving the rest to the Brigadier.

Before concluding this letter I must beg to declare most distinctly that *my* Brigadier has not the remotest conception as to who is the author of this letter, or that it would be written, until it is now published. He has been long known to me, and, although I have rarely seen him for many years, I am quite sure he comes up in every particular to the standard herein laid down. His election would be to Bombay little less than the acquisition of a duplicate

BRAIDWOOD.

Bombay, 19th June.

P.S.—The appointment, if made by the Justices of the Peace would, I fear, be infelicitous. There might be the undue exercise of patronage, or the most able canvasser might take the prize.

To The Hon'ble H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,—The late fire in the Fort having directed public attention prominently to the great danger incurred of an extensive conflagration in the crowded parts of the town, a Meeting of the Agents for Fire Insurance Companies was held on the 20th ultimo, at which it was resolved to address you on the subject and to suggest the advisability of appointing a Committee of enquiry with the view of inaugurating measures to increase the efficiency of the Fire Engine Establishments of Bombay.

It was suggested that the Committee might conveniently consist of Members representing respectively the Government, the Municipal Commissioners, the Vehar Water Works and the Fire Insurance Companies.

There appears to be a very general impression that although the activity and zeal of those in charge of the Engines cannot be too highly praised, there is room for much improvement in the general organization, the quality of the Engines, the supply of water, &c.

It was observed at the late fire that the pressure of water was so low that the Engines themselves had so little power that it was not without much difficulty that a jet of water could be projected to the very moderate height of the buildings on fire; that the physical strength of the natives who worked at the Engines was insufficient to develop their full power continuously; that there was great delay in procuring or properly attaching sufficient lengths of suction hose, and generally that there appeared a want of efficient organization.

The remedies which suggested themselves to the meeting and which might be advantageously considered by the proposed committee, were the obtaining of Steam Fire Engines of suitable power, the placing of the whole establishment under the police authorities, and the placing of proper fire plugs in all central spots, so that a good supply of water might be at once available.

It was likewise suggested that liberal rewards might be offered to those in charge of the Engines who first got them to work, and that for this purpose the Fire Insurance Companies might properly become voluntary contributors, although of course by so doing they would not accept any share of the responsibility of providing efficient means of protection to the inhabitants against fire, which must rest with the public authorities.

There would be other points deserving consideration to which it may not be necessary specially to allude, but which would naturally form the subject of discussion by the Committee.

Trusting that the Government will give the subject their early consideration.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) ANDREW GRANT.

Chairman of Meeting of Agents for Fire Insurance Co.'s

Bombay, 5th July 1864.

No. 2299 OF 1864.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To A. GRANT, Esq.,

SIR,—His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint a Committee, composed of the following Gentlemen who have consented to favour Government with their valuable services, for the purpose of reporting on the best means of rendering the Fire Engine Establishment thoroughly efficient, and of dealing generally with Fires in the City and Island of Bombay :—

A. GRANT, ESQ.—*President.*

R. McIlwraith, Esq. | H. Brooke, Esq.
W. F. Stearns, Esq. | F. King, Esq., Chief Engineer of the Bombay Water Works.

With these Gentlemen the Honorable the Governor in Council is pleased to associate,—

N. W. Oliver, Esq., Acting Senior Magistrate of Police.

F. H. Souter, Esq., Acting Commissioner of Police.

D. J. Kennelly, Esq., Municipal Commissioner.

All Heads of Department have been requested to afford to the Committee, in the conduct of this important enquiry, all the information and assistance in their power.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 5th August 1864.

No. 2087 OF 1864.

From the Hon'ble H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

To A. GRANT, Esq.
Chairman for Meeting of Agents for Fire Insurance Companies.

Dated 7th July 1864.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt this day of your letter of the 5th instant, suggesting that a Committee be appointed

to report on the measures which should be adopted to increase the efficiency of the Fire Engine Establishments in the city of Bombay.

2. In reply, I have the honor to state that I will immediately place your very important communication before His Excellency the Governor in Council,

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary.

Bombay Castle, 7th July 1864.

APPENDIX H.

WAGERS BILL.

No. 2639 OF 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am desired to forward the accompanying copy of a Bill to amend Act XXI. of 1848 (for avoiding Wagers) which is now under the consideration of the Council of the Governor of Bombay for making Laws and Regulations. The Bill was submitted in its present form by a Select Committee appointed by the Council to consider its provisions, and the reasons which induced the Members of the Council to recommend the Bill as it now stands for the adoption of the Council are fully stated in their report, copy of which is also forwarded herewith for the information of the Chamber of Commerce.

2. The Hon'ble the Governor in Council would wish to be favored with the opinion of the Chamber of Commerce on the following points;—

(1) Whether the late experience of the Chamber shows that legislation is necessary to prevent the evasion of Act XXI. of 1848,

(2) And if so, whether the Bill as amended by the Select Committee is calculated to check such evasion, and whether the whole Bill (including Sections 6, 7, 8) is necessary in order to effect this purpose.

(3) I am desired to express the high sense that His Excellency in Council entertains of the value of the information that he has already derived from the opinions separately recorded by individual firms, and communicated to him by their Chairman. His Excellency would request that the reply to the questions now put should

be if possible the collective expression of the views of the Chamber of Commerce as a body.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 3rd September 1863.

No. 109 OF 1863.

The Hon'ble H. L. ANDERSON,
Chief Secretary to Government.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to acknowledge receipt, on the 5th instant, of your letter No. 2639, dated 3rd September 1863 relative to the Bill now before the Legislative Council to amend Act XXI. of 1848 (for avoiding wagers) together with the documents accompanying same.

The Committee have carefully considered the contents of your letter, and it would afford them much pleasure to comply with the request of His Excellency the Governor in Council by ascertaining the opinion of the Chamber in its collective capacity on the subject of the two queries proposed, provided they saw their way to such an expression of opinion being at all satisfactory.

In deciding on taking the sense of the Chamber by means of written opinions by the Members, the late Committee of the Chamber were of opinion that such a course was calculated to elicit the fullest information as to the views of the Mercantile community in regard to the bill, and the present Committee are inclined to agree with them.

These written opinions I am now instructed to hand to you for the information of His Excellency in Council. It will be seen that so far as they go the numbers in favor of, and opposed to the measure are pretty equally balanced, and the Committee have no reason to believe that the balance for or against the Bill would be materially altered were a vote to be taken on the subject. Such being the case, the Committee would respectfully represent that the result, taking a collective opinion, would probably be that the views of a bare majority one way or the other would stand for the

collective opinion of the Chamber and would thus be calculated to mislead his Excellency in Council as to the state of feeling of the Mercantile community in regard to the proposed measure.

The Committee doubt not that His Excellency in Council will see the force of their objections to the course proposed in your letter, and will agree with them that the written opinions, in which the members give the reasons for the ground they take up, form, under the circumstances, the best reflex of the general opinion of the Mercantile community which the Chamber can supply.—I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Bombay, Chamber of Commerce, 14th October 1863.

No. 3200 OF 1863.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—I am directed to express to you the acknowledgments of the Honorable the Governor in Council for the trouble taken by the Members of the Chamber of Commerce in placing before Government their opinions on the proposed Bill to amend Act XXI of 1848, which were received with your letter No. 109 of the 14th ultimo.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

H. BIRDWOOD,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 14th November 1863.

To the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to draw your attention to the Bill now before the Legislative Council for "Avoiding Wagers," which was published in

the Supplement to the *Government Gazette* of 27th ultimo; and to request that you will favour them with your opinions on the subject. —I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary.

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, 27th August 1863.

To the Members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

GENTLEMEN,—I am directed by the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce to hand you Copies of Minutes thus far recorded on the subject of the Bill for Avoiding Wagers, and to request that you will kindly furnish your opinion without delay.—I remain, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE,
Secretary,

Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, September 1863.

MINUTES.

MINUTES BY MESSRS. W. NICOL AND CO.

As we are informed Mr. Westropp has pledged himself that the community shall have time to express their views on the Bill after the publication of the Report of the Select Committee, we think it would be better not to invite a discussion on it till all parties have been able to judge for themselves of the necessity for the Bill. We understand that the main object of the measure is to make the existing law applicable to those who may be called "Wager Bro-

kers," who have a power of completing a bet by a recourse at law not possessed by the principals in the transaction; and as that is, obviously, an inconsistency and defect, it is proper that the laws should be amended. We understand Mr. Westropp will adduce ample proof, on a legal point, of the existence of this defect, and of the encouragement it gives to time-bargains, or, as they are correctly called, "Wagers;" and it is for this information that it seems to us desirable that the Mercantile Community should wait. We do not, therefore, think it necessary to enter into any arguments in support of the Bill, simply expressing our entire approval of it, with the amendments proposed in Council.

(Signed) W. NICOL AND Co.

FURTHER MINUTE BY MESSRS. W. NICOL AND Co.

The writer regrets to find that the expectation he expressed (in a note which has been published) of the unanimity of the Mercantile Community in reference to the Honorable Mr. Westropp's Bill, has not proved correct. At that time, he had never heard time-bargains referred to except as an unmitigated evil and nuisance. He honestly believed Mr. Westropp deserved, and would receive the thanks of the entire trading community for spontaneously bringing forward, and their cordial support in carrying through, a measure which his great experience as a Barrister had convinced him was required to make the existing law what its framers intended it to be —effectual in repressing wagering contracts, and reducing them to the same position as bets elsewhere: debts of honour, which cannot be recovered through the Courts. In expressing himself rather hurriedly to this effect, he trusts he will be acquitted of any disrespect to those he has since learned hold contrary opinions to his own; and not anticipating any opposition to the Bill, it did not seem to him important to enter into any long arguments in support of it.

It now appears to us, that much of the difference of opinion which has been expressed arises from a misapprehension of what the Bill was really meant to effect, and to the nature of time-bargains, and in what they are distinguished from ordinary transactions. Messrs.

Ritchie, Steuart and Co.'s Minute very clearly states the former, viz. the object of the Bill, and we shall, therefore, only attempt to describe what time-bargains really are. It seems desirable that this should be done, for it appears to us that the only opponent of the Bill in Council, Sir William Mansfield, has rather vague notions on the subject. Sir William says—"Let us suppose a great merchant borrowing £400,000 to take up cotton at 15 per cent. He despatches his cotton to Liverpool in the belief that, when it arrives, the price will have risen to such an amount that he will not only pay off the loan, with its 15 per cent., but obtain a large profit besides. In short, he backs time. What is this but a time-bargain on a great scale?" Surely there will be no difference of opinion among merchants in describing this as an ordinary trading transaction. There are *bonâ fide* contracts made for the delivery of a certain quantity of cotton, which is shipped and sold in the usual way; and if Sir William supposes that it is to interfere with or repress these that Mr. Westropp's Bill is introduced, he must be under a most erroneous impression.

The distinction between such an operation and a time-bargain will we hope, be apparent from the following description of the latter;—A, having a strong opinion of the prospects of cotton, or any other commodity, wishes to make money by it. He accordingly goes to B, a Shroff, who, for a commission, agrees, on behalf of A, to make a bargain with C, who holds a contrary opinion of the prospects of the market to that of A. An agreement is then drawn out for a stated quantity of, say for example cotton, which C sells to A at a rate agreed upon (*i. e.* the current rate of the day for "Satta" bargains, and it is well known that during the past season this rate was just as well defined as the *bonâ fide* price), and in the agreement a date is fixed, on which date, if the current rate (which is settled by a punchayet) is above that stated in the agreement, A receives the difference from C through the agency of B, who has acted throughout as the Broker in the transaction. All parties clearly understand that no cotton is to be delivered, and that under the agreement no delivery can be insisted upon. The simple difference in price is what is staked on either side. We submit, that this is simply a bet, or wager, differing from that on a horse-race only in this, that in the one case a definite sum is staked, whilst, in the other, the amount risked depends on the extent to which the rate current on settling day may vary from that agreed upon. Time-bargains doubtlessly originated in legiti-

mate operations, which both parties found it convenient to settle in the manner now described; but there was always this difference, that both parties had the power of compelling the completion of a contract by a transfer from the one to the other of a specified quantity of cotton, which under the time-bargain system is never understood. In the example we have given, A cannot go into Court and compel C to deliver a certain quantity of cotton, though the contract is drawn out for the delivery of a stated quantity of that commodity on a given date. Nor could C. have recourse against A if he refused to receive the said quantity. Yet, under the law as it stands, and to which up to this time we have never heard any objection raised, the Broker who negotiated the wager can sue the loser for the amount of the bet.

If we have incorrectly described the "Satta" system, we shall doubtless be put right; but if correctly, we hope the difference between such transactions and what we understand by trade and speculation will be appreciated, and that an outcry against "legislative interference with trade" will be seen to be entirely unwarranted.

To show that the men who enter into time-bargains view them as bets or wagers, we may mention, that for some years past it has been usual with many of the Hindoos to accept the oracular predictions of astrologers and *gooroos* in entering into these engagements; and when the period for settlement approached, large sums were paid by those who stood to lose, to these men, to secure their influence in bringing about a settlement of the American war, and that the steamer with that intelligence might arrive before settling day! The value of this influence we can well estimate; but it will puzzle theorists to determine the extent of the illegitimate means which may be resorted to, by the losers for instance, to arrange the market, and thus bring about fictitiously low rates on settling day; thus saving them from loss, or reducing the amount of it. We have ourselves been solicited to purchase (fictitiously) a quantity of cotton just before settling day, at Rs. 40 to 50 below the market rate; and the same request was, we believe, made to many other firms.

On the other hand, those who stand to win make just as great effort to increase their gains by forcing the market to an extreme point. The most notable example of this is the celebrated Ramlall case which was carried to the Privy Council. To the best of our recollection, the following is an outline of the facts:—Ramlall, having

made agreements to something like a lakh of chests of Opium, prices ranging from Rs. 1,100 to 1,300 per chest, sent his agents to the sale to buy all the Opium at prices far beyond its value, the agreement being that the difference between the average price and those on "Satta" bargains should be paid to him. On the first day's sale, the price per chest was run up to about five or six lakhs of rupees, and the average of the sale was about Rs. 1,800 per chest, or nearly twice the *bonâ fide* value of the article. The total quantity at the sale being only about 2,000 chests, Ramlall could afford to lose heavily on this quantity to secure the enormous profits on the "Satta" bargains. But supposing the same system of gambling to be directed to Grain, Sugar, &c., it is scarcely possible to estimate the effects. As yet time-bargains are, we believe, confined to Opium, Cotton, Gunny Bags, and Seeds. The supply of these articles being altogether under different conditions from that of Opium at the Calcutta sale, it is impossible for those interested in raising prices to act with such effect as Ramlall did. Still, on many occasions we believe the market to have been affected to at least the extent of ten per cent. The following is an extract from our Circular of the 27th May 1861:—"COTTON.—A rather improved inquiry sprang up after the departure of last mail, and previous to the 16th inst. about 5,000 bales of Broach and Dhollera Cotton were purchased at Rs. 148|9, and Rs. 142 per candy respectively, being rather below the rates quoted at the close of our last despatches. These purchases may be said to comprise the business of the fortnight under report. Subsequently, the market became greatly unsettled, and an unhealthy state of excitement was produced by the presence of Native speculators, who, by means of extensive gambling time-bargains, have fictitiously run up prices, and in Dhollera Cotton transactions of this kind have taken place amongst them as high as Rs. 155 per candy. In consequence of this all legitimate business has been completely stopped. The term of the fulfilment of these time-bargains having now expired, the market is free from this disturbing cause, and is assuming a more healthy aspect, and the day before yesterday a few purchases of Dhollera were reported at Rs. 141 per candy, other kinds continuing neglected and quotations almost nominal." It will thus be seen, that for a considerable period of the busy shipping season, buying transactions in Cotton had to be suspended, ships had to wait for their cargoes, and Commission Agents

were deprived of their earnings, that the objects of the more powerful section of the "Sattawallas" might be served.

We must apologise for the length of these remarks, though there are several points which we would still like to notice. We particularly deprecate the complaints which we have noticed in the papers, that this is a special enactment for the benefit of "Cotton," or the operations of "great merchants," as compared with the peddling of "5,000 small speculators," which Sir Wm. Mansfield refers to. In fair trade, all are more or less on an equal footing; but we protest against fair traders being considered quite on an equality with those who do not trade, but simply bet on the future; and we support the Bill because it puts those who wager, either personally or by proxy, in the position they occupy elsewhere.

(Signed) W. NICOL AND CO.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. CAMPBELL, MITCHELL, AND CO.

We cannot agree with Messrs. Wm. Nicol and Co., that it is desirable for the Chamber to wait for the report of the Select Committee on the Bill in question before expressing their opinion. That opinion ought to be of great use to the Committee, in making up their report; and remembering the way in which the Chamber was practically ignored when the Cotton Frauds Bill was being passed, we think it most desirable that it should make its voice heard on this occasion before it is too late to be of any use.

We regret to have to record our opinion as adverse to the proposed Bill, which we regard as both pernicious in principle, and most unlikely to work any good in practice. The promoters appear to us to be trying to do what the experience of all the world has proved to be not only impolitic, but impossible, viz. to check speculation in trade. It is idle to say that time-bargains in Cotton are pure gambling, and that no calculations can be made as to the result, which is dependent on mere chance. Can this be truly said of contracts depending on the price of Cotton at a certain date, and the rates for which vary with every publication of the Liverpool market, every change in the aspect of things in America? Time-bargains are no doubt troublesome to a trade when they get into it, and tend to unsteady the course of prices. We have no love for them in the

Cotton market; they have certainly raised prices of late, but it is in the ordinary way, by the introduction of an additional class of customers into the market. It is not pleasant for those who hoped to buy their Cotton cheaper to be interfered with by the time-bargainers; but the market is open to both, and if the buyer for actual shipment has lost part of his expected profit, the sellers of Cotton have gained in equal proportion. We look on time-bargains and other such contracts as the invariable result of unusual commercial activity and excitement, such as has lately ruled in our Cotton market; differing not at all in principle, but only in degree, from the more sober dealings of commerce in ordinary times, and consequently coming within the limits of trade, by no means to be arbitrarily interfered with without fear of creating greater disorder.

It will be said for the Bill that it is not a new interference, but merely a step on the part of the local Government to render operative an enactment of the Government of India that already exists. This is true, but we demur to the title of the local Government to interfere in a case where the Central Government has thought proper to abstain from interference. The Supreme Government has contented itself with passing Act XXI. of 1845 as an expression of its dislike to excessive speculation; but it has not thought proper to go further. In the same manner, the Home Government have, we believe, a somewhat similar statute; but, unlike the Bombay Government, they decline to interfere further, and leave the trader unmolested. The supporters of the Bill quote the Betting Houses Act and the Night Houses Act as parallel instances of Government interference at home. But they are not so; they do not involve interference with trade. But, if we want a parallel case at home, let us take the time-bargains in the Tallow market, or the dealings in Consols for the account at the Stock Exchange. They are quite as immoral as time-bargains in produce, in Bombay. Does the British Parliament interfere with them? By no means. Having more knowledge of principles, more experience, more regard for what is now acknowledged as a truism in political economy, viz. non-interference with the course of trade, they decline to interfere further in such matters. They know that speculation is the leaven of commerce, and that when it is generated in surplus quantity, the surplus must have vent somewhere, whether in the way of time-bargains in Cotton in Bombay, or in 3 per cents. or Tallow in England.

We think that the complaints as to the direful effects of the time-bargain system are very much overstated. The mover of the Bill tells us, on the one hand, of the artificial augmentation of the price of Cotton by the system, and on the other hand, of the Presidency being plunged in insolvency by means of it. Strange that the enhancing of the price of its staple export should have such a pauperising effect on the Presidency. The signs of insolvency are certainly well concealed. All around, we can see only signs of increasing wealth. Do rents, do prices of provisions, or prices of labour, show signs of this insolvency, which, to use the learned mover's words, has "filled Western India?" Are the lists of Insolvents swelled? Is the class of Insolvents changed? We do not see it. Such a state of things as men without means going in for contracts for which they cannot pay, if they lose, naturally tends rapidly to correct itself. Men with means to lose decline to do business with men who have none. Mr. Westropp states, that "without the aid of the Shroffs these Mehtás and other poor persons could not engage in such transactions; they would not have sufficient credit in the bazar to effect time-bargains in their own names. These Shroffs, in consideration of the commission which they charge, permit their names to be used as principals, and incur the risk as to the solvency of their poor constituents." Now, we ask any one conversant with business in Bombay, and with the peculiarly astute and cautious character of the Shroffs, whether it is likely that those knowing men would, to any great extent, guarantee the solvency of a poor constituent, who is, notoriously to the whole bazar, a man without means? The statement carries absurdity on the face of it.

Such an Act as the one proposed is calculated to injure the Mercantile Community, inasmuch as it is an interference on the part of the Government with a species of transaction which comes clearly within the limits of the liberties of trade. It is thus calculated to unsettle trade far more than the system it seeks to put down. For who knows where the Government may think fit to interfere next? A principle is introduced, that Government is entitled to regulate trade by enactments, and no man can trade with any security that some day an Act may not be passed to interfere with his business. Trade will be at the mercy of any Legislative Councillor with a crotchet in his head. It is calculated to injure the producer whose interest it is to get as many customers as possible to compete for

his goods, by taking away a portion of his customers and reducing his gains. It is calculated most materially to injure the Government itself, for in order to carry out its intention of putting down time-bargains, who can believe that additional vexatious meddling legislation will not be necessary, from time to time, and that a system of antagonism between the Mercantile interest and a harassing intermeddling system of legislation will not be produced? The only way to avoid this is to allow the new Act, like the old one, to be quietly ignored, which will place the Government in the humiliating position of being left stranded and helpless, while the tide of speculation flows past them as before, after they have avowed their resolution to dam it up. There is nothing more damaging or more weakening to a Government than ill-considered inoperative legislation.

(Signed) CAMPBELL, MITCHELL AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. RITCHIE, STEUART, AND Co.

Our opinion on this matter is already known, and we need not take up the time of the Chamber by any lengthy statement of it now; but we may perhaps be allowed, with all due deference to the writers of the preceding Minutes, to remind the Members of the Chamber of the precise nature of the question now before us. This, it appears to us, has been so overlaid with arguments bearing, if it all, only indirectly upon it, that it is now nearly hidden from sight altogether.

The question is not now whether Act XXI. of 1848 was or was not a good Act, or was or was not required. If this issue had been raised, we could have understood the relevancy of the arguments which have been brought forward against Mr. Westropp's Bill, and we should then have expected to see those bringing them forward petitioning the Governor General in Council for the repeal of the Act. This, however, we do not find that they are doing, or proposing to do; they bring against Mr. Westropp's Bill all the arguments which might fairly be brought against the original Bill, which (on the principle that silence gives consent) has hither-

to at least enjoyed their tacit approval, and they accuse Mr. Westropp's Bill of that interference with the so-called "liberties of trade" which the original Bill contemplated, which it happily succeeded in effecting to a considerable extent, but which, through an admitted oversight on the part of its original framers, it remained powerless to effect in certain peculiar cases.

Now, how stands the case? Act XXI. of 1848 did not, as is erroneously stated, prohibit time-bargains (wagering contracts, or whatever name may be preferred:) it merely said to those who chose to indulge in such amusements, "You may gamble if you like, but you shall not make use of the law to enforce gambling contracts; have your own code of honour, if you will, but do not expect the law to help you." In fact, it attempted to place gambling transactions of this peculiar nature in the same position as bets on horse-racing, &c. It effected its purpose so far—it effectually debarred the principals to a time-bargain from coming into Court: but it left a door open whereby its action might be evaded; and the leaving of this door open has (as stated by the Chief Justice) hitherto obliged the Courts most reluctantly to consider and to decide cases which it was evidently the intention of the Legislature should have never come before them. This door Mr. Westropp now proposes to close. He merely says to those indulging in time-bargains—"That which you cannot do as principals, you shall not do as agents. If a bet cannot by law be enforced as between the principals, it shall not be enforceable merely because the dodge of agency has been resorted to in the matter."

This we would respectfully submit to our brethren in the Chamber, represents the true issue now before us.

The writer may, perhaps, be permitted to make one or two remarks upon statements made in Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co.'s Minute, which are, we believe, opposed to fact, and calculated to mislead. Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co. remark that Mr. Westropp's statements, that the time-bargain system had greatly increased insolvency, and that "without the aid of the shroffs poor persons could not engage in such transaction," bear absurdity on their face. The writer can only reply to this, that the truth of the statements in question was abundantly proved before the Committee of the Council, by what the Chamber will doubtless consider to be satisfactory evidence, viz. a reference to the records of the Insolvent Court, and

the very valuable information elicited from a Native member of the Committee, himself a member of the *Bund* of Shroffs, and probably better able than any other man in Bombay to speak with authority on the subject.

It seems hardly necessary to combat the assertion that Government is attempting "to regulate trade by enactments," or to endeavour to dispel the fears, which some seem to entertain, that if this Bill be passed "no man will henceforth be able to trade with any security that some day an Act may not be passed to interfere with his business." These fears, we imagine, are not very generally felt, and certainly they do not give *us* much disquietude.

(Signed) RITCHIE, STEUART AND Co.

2nd September, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. GREY AND Co

We quite approve of the Chamber of Commerce expressing an opinion upon all legislative measures affecting Commercial interests, and if done at all, it should certainly be done before the Bills become law.

We are of opinion that the system of time-bargains is a great and growing evil, that legislation is necessary to check it, and that the proposed Bill is well calculated to remedy the evil.

A preceding minute, which takes the opposite view of the question, admits our first proposition so far as saying that time-bargains are no doubt troublesome to trade, that they tend to unsteady the course of prices, and that they have certainly raised prices of late. This admission is half our case; and we may be pardoned for not following the Minute referred to, through a mass of somewhat irrelevant matter, based upon the unsupported assumption that these time-bargains come within the limits of legitimate trade. The Minute runs that "it is idle to say that time-bargains in Cotton are pure gambling," and thereupon assumes the statement established. With all due deference, we would retort that it is idle to say the contrary; and this statement might simply be left to counterbalance the other. But what is really the distinction between trade and gambling? Surely the line drawn between them is not so

faint and hazy that there need be any doubt in any truth-seeking mind as to which of the two classes certain transactions belong. So far as we understand the meaning of the terms, we would say that trade is the *bonâ fide* buying and selling of real merchandise, and that gambling is *(inter alia)* the wagering or betting on any future event, where the interchange of actual commodities is never contemplated by either party, and that the term may be applied with equal fairness to the event, whether it be at the card-table, the race-course, or the cotton-green. Such is our view of the signification of these terms, and we propose to hold it until some better reason is shown to the contrary than has yet appeared. We maintain that time-bargains, as now carried on here, in cotton and opium, are worthy of no better name than gambling; that they exercise a hurtful and undue influence upon the legitimate market; that the law is intended to protect, but, from its present defective state, does not protect the Merchant in his legitimate dealings against such undue influences; and that such a Bill as the one now proposed for disabling these demoralising transactions, by cutting away the chief offender's recourse at law, is admirably adapted to attain the end in view, viz. the extermination of this mischievous system.

We are as anxious to preserve the liberties of trade as any of the opponents of the proposed Bill can possibly be, and it is a misrepresentation to say that the object of its supporters is to interfere in any way with the free course of healthy speculation. Speculation is one thing, and gambling is quite another—at least, to our comprehension there is no difficulty in distinguishing clearly between them. We ask for a law that shall, by removing undue influences, impart steadiness, and give freer scope to speculation, properly so called. Unfettered trade is what we seek, although it would not appear so from the representations of some of the opponents of the Bill, who first beg the question of terms, and proceed to argue, plausibly enough, upon an assumption from which we entirely dissent. We would deprecate all unnecessary legislative interference with trade, while we claim the protection of the law against those who are not traders, but gamblers.

We do not share the fears expressed in the Minute already referred to, that the proposed legislation will weaken the position of Government by the law becoming inoperative. We think that Government is quite equal to the task of looking after its own posi-

tion in the matter; and we have no fear that the law, if passed, will become inoperative, unless, may be, for the satisfactory reason that the system against which it is framed collapses before it, leaving nothing to contend with. We trust it may be so.

(Signed) GREY AND Co. „

2nd September, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. MACINDOE, ROGERS, AND Co.

Our opinion is entirely in favour of Mr. Westropp's Bill, and we think the arguments in support of it, adduced in the preceding Minutes, are quite unanswerable.

The object of the Bill is not in any way to check speculation in trade—*i. e.* speculation of a legitimate character. Its tendency, we think, is quite the reverse of this. We do not see by what construction time-bargains can be designated as operations in trade at all. An interchange of commodities is not even contemplated by the parties to these transactions: and such being the case, we are at a loss to know how they can be said to trade. That these time-bargains have enhanced prices, is confessed by the opponents of Mr. Westropp's Bill, and this in itself is an admission that they interfere with the course of trade. To remove such impediments to the ligitimate tendency of prices, is to render trade freer, not in any way to hamper it.

It has been stated, that if time-bargains in Cotton raise prices, it is in the ordinary way, viz. by bringing additional customers into the market, We think this assertion cannot be supported as the so-called customers have no intention of taking delivery of a bale. An increase of *bonâ fide* customers is not what the supporters of Mr. Westropp's Bill at all wish to discourage. If an exchange of commodities takes place, or is even understood, be the customers ever so numerous, there can be no object in raising prices artificially; and that they should cease to be so affected is undoubtedly for the interest of the Mercantile community.

(Signed) MACINDOE, ROGERS AND Co.

MINUTE BY H. BROOKE, Esq., FIRM OF ALEXANDER C. BRICE AND CO.

The objectionable character of the Bill and of its proposed amendment appears to me to consist, not in its being injurious, but its perfect uselessness. It would seem, also, quite uncalled for by the actual circumstances of the case. Much has been said about the wide-spread ruin entailed by time-bargains; but beyond the persons implicated, and who might surely be left to take care of themselves, I doubt if there are twenty persons who could trace clearly any serious impediment to their business to this alleged cause. I have looked at the prices of Cotton about the settling days, but only on one occasion (in 1861) was there any material enhancement of price; and even then the enhancement was maintained. The price of Dhollera on 13th May 1861 was Rs. 141, on 27th May Rs. 153, and on 11th June Rs. 156 per candy. Since that time, the market has fluctuated according to the so-called legitimate law of supply and demand. Doubtless, some few persons might have purchased at a lower price if there had been no time-bargains; but it is not to be supposed that they can expect the legislature to pass laws for their convenience. Legislation should be for the many, not for the few; and, to be respected, it must be necessary and effective. The existing law is acknowledged to have been inoperative, or at all events very defective; but we have got on very well with it for fifteen years, and I fancy that few legitimate traders were aware of its existence. That the proposed amendment is not likely to be more effective, may be inferred from the facility with which a slight variation of the contract would enable it to be evaded. If gambling sales in Cotton are stopped, we shall have real sales of Cotton upon an enormous scale, and as the settlement of the price will then take place upon the value of real Cotton, the struggle over the price on a given day will be pushed to the greatest extremes; as, for instance, in Tallow, when the price was driven up to 80*s.* on settling day, and fell the day after to about 53*s.* We did not, however, hear of the London Tallow-chandlers and Soapmakers petitioning Parliament to stop time-bargains in produce;—they simply bought other descriptions of fats and grease, and waited till the speculation or gambling was over. If the speculation in Cotton runs on Dhollera, the legitimate trader can buy other kinds, and will have a good chance of getting Dhollera cheap when the speculation subsides.

I see no objection to leaving the present Bill on the Statute Book, as it is quite harmless, and not worth the trouble of repealing ; but I think it would be generally injurious to persist in a species of class legislation, which, as soon as passed into law, lapses into general disuse; and serves only as an obscure record of the good intentions of the promoters.

(Signed) H. BROOKE, (ALEX. C. BRICE AND Co.)

MINUTE BY MESSRS. W. & A. GRAHAM AND Co.

We cordially agree with the supporters of Mr. Westropp's Bill, whose Minutes precede this; and would only further place on record our entire dissent from the opinions expresed by Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, and Co. We are not a little surprised to see time-bargain gamblers included among the *customers* of the producer.

(Signed) W. & A. GRAHAM AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. GEO. S. KING AND Co.

By the passing of the Bill for avoiding Wagers, it appears the Agents of those who do "Time-bargains" will be unable to sue for recovery in any Court of Law; this will lighten the work in our Courts.

There are so many ways of evading the possibility of going to law for recovery that we cannot look for much good coming from the passing of the Bill.

The principal benefit will be reaped by the Judges, and that will only be less work—which the Lawyers won't like, we should say.

(Signed) p.p GEO. S. KING AND Co.
J. R. DRYNAN.

12*th September*, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. SOUZA, PINTO AND Co.

In a comprehensive view of Mr. Westropp's Bill, now under discussion, we are of opinion that it is a form well adapted to give ef-

fect to the existing Law as passed in the Legislative Council of India, Act XXI. of 1848.

The Law as it at present stands, although well intended, certainly falls short of the aim in view; and, on the other hand, it seems rather to leave open a way of temptation for those who may wish to defeat its object, permitting astute Shroffs to take advantage of its defects.

Believing then, as we do, this Act (XXI. of 1848) to be awanting in regard to this species of bargains, we shall be glad to see it amended; and Mr. Westropp's Bill appearing to us the most suitable, we trust the opprobrious system of "wagering," &c., so largely carried on, may ere long be done away with, to the general benefit of the mercantile community.

(Signed) SOUZA, PINTO AND Co.

15*th September*, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. CARDWELL, PARSONS AND Co.

We approve of Mr. Westropp's Bill, and think the parties who object to it cannot quite understand the true nature of Time-bargains: certainly not Sir Wm. Mansfield, when he instances a great merchant borrowing £400,000 to ship Cotton to England in the belief that when it arrives it will leave a large profit. This we look upon as legitimate trading not time-bargaining, in which no actual produce is taken delivery of. And is it possible to suppose that prices would rise or fall as they do when settling day draws near, if each party had to weigh and take delivery of the Cotton they put their names down for; and can it be said that if they had to do this, such a large quantity would be found to complete their so-called purchases? This, then, in our opinion, is quite sufficient to prove that time-bargains are nothing more than wagers as to the price of the produce on a fixed day, and cannot be at all assimilated to legitimate trading.

(Signed) CARDWELL, PARSONS AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. FINLAY, SCOTT AND CO.

The merits of the Honorable Mr. Westropp's Bill having been so ably set forth by others in the preceding minutes, and as we understand the opinion of the Members of the Chamber of Commerce is what is required, we confine ourselves to merely stating that we cordially approve of the Bill, and wish its supporters every success,

(Signed) FINLAY, SCOTT AND CO.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. LEGGATT AND CO.

Act XXI. of 1848 having been meant to provide in some measure for such transactions as time-bargains, and the inutility of this Act having been since discovered, it is no doubt very desirable and proper that when a defect in a law, whereby it can be evaded, is proved to exist, it should be provided against; but we are not disposed to think that Mr. Westropp's Bill will be of much use as regards the purpose it is intended for. We fear it will only complicate and make matters worse, and will, undoubtedly, be attended with considerable evil.

It is next to impossible to be rid of time-bargain operations where commerce is carried on so extensively; they do not, in our opinion, interfere with legitimate trade to the extent that Mr. Westropp believes, and we certainly think, with Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell & Co., if there is to be an amendment of the defect in the original Act, that it ought not to be one of the local Council's.

(Signed) LEGGATT AND CO.

17*th September*, 1864.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. COMBER, SON AND CO.

Considering it unnecessary to recapitulate the arguments in favour of Mr. Westropp's Bill that have already been put forward by Messrs. Nicol & Co., and others, we beg merely to state our entire approval of the Bill as it at present stands.

(Signed) COMBER, SON AND CO.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. S. BURSTALL AND Co.

We are opposed to the Bill, more on account of its uselessness than from any fear we entertain that Trade may suffer by the same being made law.

Time-bargains or gambling speculations (as they are so called) we consider never can be put a stop to, and we agree with Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co. in looking at Time-bargains and such like contracts, as the result of unusual commercial activity, such as we have lately experienced in our Cotton market.

We do not wish to be thought supporters of wagering contracts, but thinking, as we do, that such transactions come within the limits of the liberties of Trade, we deprecate any attempt at interference on the part of the Legislature, and consider such would be both useless and unwise.

(Signed) p.p. S. BURSTALL AND Co.
THOS. R. BOOTH.

MINUTE by MESSRS. KILLICK, NIXON AND Co.

With reference to the proposed Time-bargain Bill, our opinion is decidedly adverse to it.

We consider the subject not one calling for legislation, and that enhancement of the price of Cotton consequent on time-bargaining must be left to be corrected by the natural laws of supply and demand: also that the Bill, if passed, will not have the intended effect of putting a stop to time-bargaining.

(Signed) KILLICK, NIXON AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. WALLACE AND Co.

We regret that we must record our opinion as adverse to the proposed Bill: not by any means because we approve of the system of time-bargain gambling; on the contrary, we look upon it as a most unsatisfactory element in our market, and one which we should rejoice to see done away with.

It is, we think, unnecessary, for the object of these remarks, to enter upon the question of the "morality" of time-bargaining, and as to how time-bargaining differs from what may be called legitimate trade "to arrive." In our opinion, they differ materially.

We base our objections on the practical difficulties with which the carrying out of any such Bill will be beset. We maintain that under such a Bill no merchant will be secure; that any legitimate operation, which may, with the consent of both parties, be cancelled or compromised, may not be considered a time-bargain gambling operation; and that under the 3rd and 4th Sections of this Bill, he may not be called upon to refund the amount of any such compromises, if the other party to the bargain should repent the arrangement any time in the course of six months.

It is in these two Clauses that we consider that the main objections to the Bill exist. If no other alteration in the former Act was proposed, by this Bill than that of rendering collateral as well as the principal contracts in gambling bargains void, we should not object to it; and it might possibly have the effect of diminishing this description of gambling, as it would render the settlements of the accounts between the Shroff and his gambling constituents a question of honour, in like manner as the settlement of accounts between the two principals.

Let the 3rd and 4th Sections, however, come into force, and the position of matters is entirely changed. Then, as the very fact of a compromise having been made must go far to make any compromised transaction seem, in the eyes of the Court, a "time-bargain" from the beginning, no trader, however legitimate his transactions, would be safe; whereas, without these Clauses, any objection must be made at the time of the compromise. If the compromise is not arranged, a delivery of produce must take place; the buyer cannot refuse to take the produce.

We object, moreover, to these two Sections, Nos. 3 and 4, on higher grounds. We think it better that time-bargaining should go on unchecked, rather than that the Queen's Courts should lend themselves directly to the encouragement of such glaring dishonesty on the part of men, as not only the repudiation of debts of honour, but even the punishment, by the hand of the dishonoured, of the man who placed trust in him.

(Signed) WALLACE AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. STOEHR, PRIEGER, AND CO.

We have felt reluctant in expressing our opinion upon the merits or disadvantages of the Bill for avoiding Wagers, until we had made ourselves better acquainted with it. We have now carefully read the Bill, together with the Minutes expressed by other houses, both *pro* and *con*, and fully agree with the views expressed by Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, and Co. We think there is no need of further legislation, believing that the evils attending such transactions rectify themselves in course of time.

(Signed) STOEHR, PRIEGER, AND CO.

Bombay, 23rd September, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. NASMYTH & CO.

We entirely coincide with the opinions expressed by Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, and Co., and other firms taking the same side, on the question of Mr. Westropp's "Time-bargain" Bill, both as regards its practical inutility, and the precedent it may afford for undue Legislative interference in matters of Trade.

(Signed) p. p. NASMYTH AND CO.
FRANCIS W. SEDGWICK.

Bombay, 26th September, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. LAWRENCE AND CO.

Our opinion in reference to Mr. Westropp's Bill for the suppression of Time-bargaining is as follows:—

In the *first* place, although time-bargains in Cotton, carried to the excess they have lately been, undoubtedly prejudice the legitimate trader, we think the extent to which they do so is greatly exaggerated by the advocators of the Bill.

The Market for Cotton and that for Satta bargains are quite distinct; and although the contracts are similar in both cases, the nature of the business is perfectly different, and well understood by

the trade, and prices are arranged accordingly. On the settling days of time-bargains, there is considerable excitement amongst the "Bulls" and "Bears," one trying to put the market up and the other to put it down; but we do not think that these efforts ever materially affect the real price of the staple, which is governed entirely, now-a-days, by the Liverpool market.

It may be immoral to bet upon Cotton, Opium, Shares, or Stock, but we do not think legislation will prevent it, especially such legislation as sanctions what Sir Joseph Arnould very properly calls "a double immorality."

What renders the Bill, however, particularly objectionable in our eyes, is, that owing to the difficulty of proving in a Court of Justice whether a transaction was a time-bargain or not, the legitimate trader might be most seriously injured if he should at any time, from inability to obtain good Cotton from the seller, have offered to settle the matter by accepting the difference in price between the contract rate, and the then market rate, as the seller, if he were not an honourable and upright man, might avail himself of the provisions of this Act, say the transaction was a time-bargain, and refuse to pay anything.

Secondly.—We would deprecate any such legislation as this, as we believe it would be very prejudicial to the interests of Cotton exporters, inasmuch as a large portion of the speculation that now exhausts itself in Satta bargains would then come into the real Cotton market, and so fictitiously enhance the price, that Cotton exporting, already sufficiently speculative for most people, would become so much so as to send the regular trader for a time out of the market.

On these grounds, therefore, we object to the Bill, which we think uncalled for, if not wrong in principle.

(Signed) LAWRENCE AND Co.

Bombay, 30th September, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. A. H. HUSCHKE AND Co.

"Bonis nocet, quisquis pepercerit malis."

The proposed Bill has our approval.

(Signed) A. H. HUSCHKE AND Co.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. ASHBURNER, BELL, AND CO.

We entirely disapprove of Mr. Westropp's Time-bargain Bill, as we think that if it become law, it is more calculated to increase gambling (as it is called by the promoters of the Bill) in Produce, than to put a stop to it—for the simple reason, that it would open the door to determined speculators, and all unprincipled men, to indulge their propensity to any extent, knowing, as they would then do, that they had the law to protect them, if they wished it, in repudiating all *unfortunate* transactions they might enter into for Cotton or other Produce to be delivered at a future date, simply by allowing the case to be taken into Court, where it would be pronounced by the proposed Bill a *time-bargain*. We object to the Bill on many grounds. It will, we fear, if passed, interfere with, and injure very seriously, legitimate trade, without accomplishing the object it has in view, viz. putting a stop to time-bargains, as we do not see how it will be possible for any Court of Law to distinguish these from *bonâ fide* transactions, the terms of both contracts being now, we understand, precisely the same. It is calculated to put a stop effectually to all *bonâ fide* sales and purchases, "to arrive," of imports and exports, (for who will dare either to buy or sell "to arrive," when it is quite possible that such transactions may be called time-bargains, if such a Bill become law?) thus doing incalculable injury to the trade of the port. The Bill, if passed, would probably benefit a *small* section of the mercantile community: we allude to those firms who buy their cotton and other produce up-country—and who, by the way, are its chief supporters. We can easily imagine the great inconvenience these firms may have been put to, and great difficulty they may have experienced, in getting delivery of their cotton up-country during the last year, when prices were being run up daily there by great excitement and speculation here; but it would be unfair and impolitic to legislate for the *few* to the great detriment of the *many*.

We repeat, that the Bill in question is, in our opinion, not only radically wrong in principle, but, if passed, will materially injure legitimate trade, without in the slightest doing away with the object which it has in view, viz., the so-called gambling in Produce called in England, however, *speculation*, as in the Tallow Trade for example.

We deprecate all legislative interference with Trade. Speculation is the soul of Business; and to attempt to put a stop to it by legislation would be to ruin Trade itself.

(Signed) ASHBURNER, BELL AND CO.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. STEWART AND CO.

We agree with those who think that Mr. Westropp's Bill against Wagering in Cotton, &c. is right in principle, but wrong in some of its details. No one can question that its object is good, and that the prevention of such transactions as bring local importance and monied influence to Shroffs, as agents, by the demoralisation and frequent ruin of the principals, would confer a benefit upon the community.

It cannot be argued against the Bill, as some of our fellow-members do, that it will not entirely suppress a recognised evil. No law ever did or can prevent entirely the evil which it is intended to meet. The question is, "Will the Bill suppress a public agency for gambling, similar in principle to gaming-houses, and cause all transactions of a gambling nature to be made and settled by agents and principals, in secret, with much risk, and liable to the scourge of public opinion and public law?" If the Bill can accomplish this as we think it will, it undoubtedly carries out the spirit of English law, which is the suppression of gambling; and we take it, that whenever, wherever, and by whomsoever, a new agency for betting is established, it is the duty of the State to mould the implied object of the law into an expressed statute, so that such agency may not exist with impunity, and even ask support to recover some of its claims and those of others. If, however, it is asked, "Will the Bill give any protection to Trade?" the question arises, "What injury is done to Trade by the so-called Time-bargains?" We cannot agree with Mr. Scott in thinking prices are much affected by them. They may tend to confuse the market; but that, we think, is all. No cotton is kept back, and no capital sunk, beyond the deposits of those who bet. Supply and demand have free play, as these transactions are not speculations in cotton, but bets as to cotton rising or falling, which do not constitute trade in cotton, as

Messrs. Campbell, Mitchell, & Co. seem to think, any more than betting on horse-racing constitutes trade in horseflesh. It is true, they may prompt to real purchases and sales, with the object of affecting prices; but with the motives of such purchases or sales commercial men have nothing to do. A prudent merchant will, indeed, consider those, but not in any public capacity, and certainty with no desire for legislative protection. We do not think, therefore, the Bill can be supported as any benefit to Trade, but as an Act for the suppression of gambling.

One section of the Bill (No. 8) seems to us unnecessary, if the Bill be as against agents. No clause, in our opinion, which invites a man to claim what he has lost in gambling, can affect, in any way, wagers as between principals and principals. The same objection seems to apply to section 7, but there the threat is intended for the agent, who is not himself a gambler, but the encourager of gambling. We are inclined to think, however, that section 6 is sufficiently stringent for the purpose of the Bill, and that Nos. 7 and 8 might be expunged with advantage. This seems also to be Messrs. Ritchie, Steuart, & Co.'s opinion, for they say in their minute, of Act XXI of 1848, that it expresses, in effect, "'You may gamble if you like, but you shall not make use of the law to enforce gambling contracts. Have your own code of honour if you will, but do not expect the law to help you." We scarcely think, after such an expression, they will support the Bill without asking that such clauses should be expunged, as make the law to say, "Come, and we will enable you to recover what you have lost by gambling." We think the Bill, without these clauses, is worthy of support.

(Signed) STEWART & Co.

Bombay, 7th October, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. RALLI BROTHERS.

We quite concur in the principle of Mr. Westropp's Bill for avoiding Wagers, and hope it may pass.

(Signed) RALLI BROTHERS.

Bombay, 7th October, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. FULCHER, COOPER, AND Co.

We disapprove of the "Time-bargain Bill," about which there has recently been so much discussion in our local Legislative Council.

We think that such a Bill would act prejudicially in the operations of a legitimate trader, without really checking illicit speculation; that time-bargains—gambling transactions—are bad, and ought to be discouraged: but it will be in vain to attempt to check this evil by a legislative Act, without doing a proportionately greater mischief to legitimate trade.

We think that the law ought to recognise an agent; and any person acting as such ought, in our opinion, to be legally secured against loss. Such agents as are employed in this country (Shroff's) may do harm at times, but surely the whole system of agency ought not, in consequence, to be rendered insecure.

(Signed) FULCHER, COOPER, AND Co.

Bombay, 10th October, 1863.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. RENNIE, SCOVELL, AND Co.

We entirely disapprove of the proposed Bill, and, indeed, of all legislation on the subject.

The Sutta Punchayet has long since died a natural death, in consequence of the exposure of the shameless practices perpetrated in 1862, and we really do not think that any legislation whatever on the subject of Time-bargains can now be in any way beneficial At the same time, we are perfectly convinced that widespread mischief must inevitably ensue, if such an enactment as the proposed "Time-bargain Bill" becomes law. Mutual confidence, and faith in the perfect stability of contracts, which form the back-bone of all mercantile transactions, must inevitably be severely shaken when the contractors have hanging over them an Act of Council so arbitrary in its provisions, and at the same time so vague and indefinite in its terms.

On these grounds, we would strenuously oppose the Bill. But we might mention many other objections, such as the anomaly of the Bombay Government repressing, by a legislative enactment, the

very practice which obtains in Calcutta in the Opium market, and by means of which (if the assertions of the supporters of the Bill are correct that time-bargains enhance the price of produce) the Indian Government derives increased revenue at their opium sales. We have thus the curious spectacle of the Indian Government repressing with one hand what it encourages and derives profit from with the other.

In one word, legitimate trade would suffer most serious injury by such an enactment: the legitimate trader's difficulties in dealing with Native contractors, already sufficiently aggravated and disheartening, would be many fold increased, and compromises, now so readily effected, and so convenient to both parties, buyer and seller, would become most insecure, speculation would be damped, and confidence would be materially weakened, while no benefit of any kind, that we can conceive, would follow the crude and unstatesmanlike legislative action proposed.

(Signed) For RENNIE, SCOVELL, AND Co.,
W. J. MORGAN.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. EWART, LATHAM, AND Co.

So much has been written on the subject, that we are content to record our approval of Mr. Westropp's Bill, though we fear the ingenuity of the Natives will find out some means of evading the working of the Bill if it ever becomes law.

(Signed) EWART, LATHAM AND Co.

Bombay, 12th October, 1863.

APPENDIX I.

GOLD CURRENCY FOR INDIA.

MINUTE BY MR. W. R. CASSELS.

H. BROOKE, Esq.,
Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—The present extraordinary state of our money market and the causes which have led to it, seem to me to require the serious attention of the mercantile community. I have, therefore, the honour of requesting that you will be so good as submit the following remarks to the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, and afterwards to the members generally for discussion.

It is well known that, for a considerable time past, immense quantities of silver have been imported into Bombay. Our receipts from 30th April to 30th April of the last three years have been as follows:—

1860-61	Rs.	38,859,849
1861-62	„	66,471,563
1862-63	„	99,592,005
1st May to 15th November	„	36,488,216

and the amount received by last mail alone was not far short of a crore of rupees.

Notwithstanding such large importations, the demand for money has so far exceeded production, that serious embarrassment has ensued, and business has almost come to a stand from the scarcity of the circulating medium. As fast as rupees have been coined they have been taken into the interior, and have there speedily disappeared from circulation, either in the Indian substitute for the stocking-foot, or in the smelting pot for conversion into bangles. The position of Calcutta and Madras is very little better than our own.

Fortunately the nature of the crisis is generally understood; and although there is a scarcity of coin, there is no lack of confidence, so that probably little beyond general inconvenience need at present be apprehended; but the evil which has led to this protracted pressure is one which threatens us with a periodical relapse. The dearness of money will no doubt in some degree check the despatch of silver to the interior, and perhaps attract a return of some of the hoarded coin already there, but so long as our only circulating medium is the rupee, we shall constantly be exposed to the danger and inconvenience of the crisis, unnecessarily aggravated, which has just crippled the trade of Bombay.

The constant drain of silver for the use of India is now beginning to tell upon the resources of Europe, and the time is probably not far distant when the supply of this bullion will be diminished by the exhaustion or reticence of the home markets. Hitherto India has absorbed importations without even a symptom of repletion, and the present scarcity indicates that a very much larger amount may disappear from circulation without satisfying the eager demand. It is quite clear that the existing currency is no longer adequate for the requirements of India, and that the prosperity of the country has outstripped its circulating medium.

In introducing the Bill which professed to reform the currency of India, Mr. Laing admitted that "it did seem to him to be what he "could hardly call otherwise than barbarous, to introduce a system "based on the entire exclusion of that all-pervading metal, whose "superior convenience was fast making it the sole or principal "medium of all the most civilized nations of the world"; and he expressed his opinion that gold would be a universal medium of exchange from one end of India to the other in preference to currency notes. The select committee appointed to report on the Bill, of which His Excellency Sir Bartle Frere was a member, expressed similar views.

The difficulty attending the question of a double standard of gold and silver, as well as the fear of delaying the really valuable Currency Bill by entering upon its discussion, prevented Mr. Laing at that time from proposing any positive measure for making gold a legal tender in India; but the committee declared that it would be "a considerable advantage to provide for the possible applica-

"tion in India of the same principle as regards gold as is applied "in England in regard to silver"; and it was, therefore, enacted that notes to the extent of one-fourth of the circulation of India might be issued against gold coin or gold bullion, at a rate to be fixed by Government, from time to time, and which should not be altered without six months' notice. It is difficult to discover why this clause has so long been allowed to remain a dead letter; but that India is well prepared to avail itself of any such facility, is evident from the importation of gold during the last few years, although it is not a legal tender. Our receipts have been as follows:—

1860-61	Rs.	25,032,294
1861-62	„	28,589,425
1862-63	„	40,225,794
1st May to 15th November	„	24,517,280

It was hoped by the committee that by thus fixing a *minimum* value for gold, and receiving it at such a rate at all Government treasuries, its "superior convenience" and "adaptation to native wants," might in course of time lead to the introduction of a considerable auxiliary gold currency; and, at any rate it was believed that it would be a great advantage to commerce to know that gold could be made available as money at a certain fixed rate.

A moment's consideration of Mr. Laings's speech when introducing the Currency Bill, and of the committee's report upon it, suffices to show that the desirability of a gold currency for India was generally admitted, although official expediency prevented any practical action, in connection with that Bill, beyond the timid experiment provided for in clause IX.

No reason now exists, however, for postponing the consideration of this important subject, or for adhering to a "barbarous" system which excludes gold from the financial operations of an empire; and, if the question of a double standard of gold and silver be complicated in some respects, it is quite susceptible of solution.

The late Mr. Wilson, absorbed in his favourite scheme of a paper currency, was averse to couple with it any project of a gold coinage for India. He freely admitted, however, the superior advantage of that medium, and avowed that, had we to recommence *de novo* in this country "convenience would point to a gold standard with

"silver token coins as the best." The great objection which he advanced, however, was, that large public liabilities had been incurred by the country to be paid in silver, which could not without breach of faith, be paid in any other relatively cheaper metal. He, therefore, preferred to such a proceeding the plan of a double standard of silver and gold, although he recognized the inconsistency and inconvenience of that system. In a mercantile point of view the cheaper metal would displace the dearer, but in the hands of the public they would be of the same nominal value.

Mr. Wilson's opinion upon such matter is certainly one of the greatest weight; but when closely scrutinized, is there anything in it really antagonistic to the present introduction of a gold currency, and of a gold standard into India? I submit that there is not. He commences by admitting that, had we to begin *de novo*, a gold standard similar to that of England would be the right system to adopt; but because an erroneous, and, according to Mr. Laing, a "barbarous" system has unfortunately been introduced, is it to be perpetuated and enforced by more enlightened financiers? Are we not yet in the very infancy of Indian prosperity, with the resources and capabilities of the Empire still in their first stage of development, and probably with the sum of a judicious and healthy public debt, incurred for the public benefit, in its very germ? The time will come, it appears to me, when those who look back on the present period of our history, will laugh at our persistence in a pernicious or mistaken course of action, simply because it has endured this short span of Indian progress. No time can be more suitable than the present for inaugurating a better system, and at once reforming a defective currency, and relieving commerce from serious embarassment.

I submit, however, that the danger to funded interests in adopting at once a gold standard is not great. It is true that the immensed discoveries of gold in California and Australia depressed to some extent the value of that metal, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that it has now found its level; and certainly the adoption of a gold currency in India would tend to steady it, and prevent any material fluctuation. The injury would be entailed upon the holders of Government paper, in consequence of liability to be paid off in gold instead of in silver, is therefore by no means very certain or

even probable, and whilst in no case is it likely that the loss would be considerable, it would more probably be altogether inappreciable. It is questionable how far, in the vague fear of a possible depreciation of the circulating medium to a small extent, Government are right in adhering to an antiquated system, and in refusing to adopt measures which assuredly would be more advantageous to the mass of the people.

There are, however, two remedies for the evil pointed out by Mr Wilson which may be stated—Government might either engage, on paying off existing liabilities in gold, to compensate for any loss which may be incurred by its relative depreciation at the time—and this would not be assuming any new obligation—or the double standard might be admitted for the present, all new liabilities being contracted in gold, until the funded debt now existing should either be transferred from a silver to a gold standard, or be paid off by new loans. Few will doubt, I believe, that Government could at once obtain money sufficient, on the same or more advantageous terms, to pay off all engagements which have been contracted to be repaid in silver.

In adopting the gold standard, we should at once make a vast stride towards assimilating the Indian currency to that of England, the direct and collateral advantages of which would be great; and a gold coinage, which carries with it more than any other its own intrinsic value, could not fail to be favourably received by the natives of this country. All the operations of commerce would be simplified and facilitated, and as Mr. Laing pointed out, our neighbouring colonies enabled to deal with us direct, without requiring first to send their gold to London, and thence to France or Germany, in order to buy silver to despatch overland to India, with which to pay for our products.

I propose, therefore, that the Chamber of Commerce should petition Government to take into immediate consideration the desirability of adopting a gold currency, upon a gold standard, for this country, and, meanwhile, to act upon the provisions of clause IX. of Act XIX. of 1861, and issue notes to the extent of one-fourth of the amount of their whole circulation against gold coin or gold bullion,—I have the honour of being, Sir, your obedient servant.

(Signed) WALTER R. CASSELS.

Bombay, 1st December.

H. BROOKE, Esquire,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—Since addressing you on the 1st instant circumstances have led me to believe that a fuller statement of the reasons for which I advocate the introduction of a gold currency into India will tend to condense discussion. I therefore have the honor of requesting that you will be so good as circulate the following additional remarks along with my previous letter.

I do not propose the adoption of a gold currency as a remedy for the existing monetary distress, but I do so with the conviction that such a measure would to a considerable extent protect us from the protracted distress of any similar crisis.

India has long been notoriously the sink of the precious metals, and of late years its absorption of silver especially has enormously increased. Its silver coinage has not only had to satisfy the requirements of commerce, as the medium of exchange, but it has had to supply a sufficiency of material to the silver-smith and the jeweller. The mint has been pitted against the smelting pot, and the coin, produced with so much patience and skill by the one, has been rapidly reduced into bangles by the other. Through the suspicious habit of the people, prosperity adds little or nothing to the floating capital of the country, but the profits of trade as well as the savings of labour are buried in wasteful unproductiveness. The immense gains upon cotton, realized during the last few years, have to a large extent been as effectually withdrawn from circulation as though the silver were yet in an undiscovered mine.

Silver being the single standard of India, this unfortunate tendency to absorption more immediately affects that metal, and the probable result is sufficiently alarming. The annual production of silver of the whole world does not exceed ten millions sterling. During the last few years, therefore, India alone has annually taken, and to a great extent absorbed more of the metal than has been produced by the whole world. It is clear that this cannot long continue without producing serious embarrassment. Either the European markets will be unable or unwilling to supply us, or the value of silver will rise to an extravagant extent. Under such circumstances it is not difficult to foresee that the present crisis must continually recur, and that commerce in this country must be periodi-

cally, if not permanently, crippled by the scarsity of the circulating medium. Considerations with regard to the convenience of the world in general, as well as of India in particular, therefore, would suggest the desirability of some measure to check the present useless drain of silver.

I propose the adoption of a gold currency upon a gold standard or India, t herefore, on the following grounds:—

1. It would tend to check absorption.
2. It would check the exhaustion of silver and its undue, because unnecessary, enhancement in value.
3. It would ensure a rapid supply to meet demand in all times of pressure.
4. It would tend to steady the price both of gold and of silver.
5. It would maintain an abundant silver token currency for the convenience of the people.
6. It would promote direct intercourse with neighbouring colonies.
7. It would assimilate our currency to that to England.
8. It would be generally more convenient.

1. At present every rupee which is saved or gained can at once be added to the secret hoard of the native, and retired from circulation. With a gold coinage say of pieces of five and ten rupees however, no intermediate sums could be withdrawn from circulation, except in silver token coins not intrinsically worth the sum they represent.

2. There would not, with a currency based upon this principle, be the same temptation to hoard the subsidiary token coins, but in fact the greater her demand for them the more profitable would their issue be to the Government. It is probable that the superior convenience of gold would induce those who now possess hoarded rupees to exchange their silver for the more precious metal, and thus a good deal of the former may again be unearthed. The tendency, therefore, of a gold currency would be to check the rise of silver, on the one hand, and the fall of gold, on the other, and to steady the balance of the two metals. This is no unimportant object for if it be right to protect the public creditor from loss which might arise from the payment in gold of liabilities contracted in silver, it is no less right and desirable that the country should not have to pay a much larger sum than it received, through the rise in silver caused by its unhealthy absorption in India.

3. Dear money of course always naturally attracts supplies to the market, and thus the vacuum is filled up, and the pressure relieved. Two circumstances, however, greatly retard this remedy where there is a silver standard: first, the increasing scarcity of silver; and second, the length of time required to coin it into rupees. Our present pressure, for instance, cannot possibly be relieved otherwise than slowly, because silver cannot be supplied with sufficient rapidity, and the Mint cannot keep pace with the demand for rupees. With a gold currency, however, it is evident that the power of a Mint is at once increased ten-fold, and by any steamer, enough of gold might be introduced into the market to change scarcity into superabundance. No monetary pressure, therefore, could be of long duration, and the greater the demand, as indicated by high rates of discount, the more speedy would be the supply. The annual production of silver by the whole world, I have already mentioned, amounts to about ten millions sterling. Before the great discoveries in California and Australia the annual production of gold amounted only to about five or six millions, but since the opening of those fields, it is estimated that during the last ten years 150 millions sterling of gold have been produced in excess of any previous decade, and the annual production now amounts to about 25 millions sterling. This is sufficient for any probable demand.

4. The comparative scarcity of silver, and the abundance of gold alone is an argument for the adoption of a gold currency in India, for the large demand for the latter, which this would create, would no doubtfully counterbalance the increase of production, and even India's tendency to absorb the precious metals would be a mitigated evil, when transferred from silver to gold. Indeed, considering the comparative course of prices of the two metals, it is probable that such a measure would have the effect of re-adjusting the balance between gold and silver, which has been disturbed by the gold discoveries of late years, and by India's drain of silver.

5. As all the subsidiary coinage, under a gold standard, would be merely silver token coins not intrinsically worth the full sum they represent, there would be little or no risk of their disappearing from circulation, and much of the inconvenience now arising out of the scarcity of small coin would be effectually prevented. The gold standard would, therefore, really increase and preserve

the common circulating medium of the people of this country, instead of being beyond their means.

6. Mr. Laing, and the Select Committee on the Currency Bill, pointed out the advantage of the direct commercial intercourse with neighbouring colonies which a gold currency would procure for us, and it requires no argument to show the absurdity of a system, which forces a country, with abundance of gold in hand, to traverse half the globe in search of silver, before it can deal with a market at its very door.

7. The assimilation of the currency of India to that of England, it appears to me, would also be a very great advantage. It would draw the two countries closer together and promote their intercourse. It would facilitate all exchange operations and abolish all the complication and confusion of accounts now kept in the double form of rupees and sterling.

8. The superior convenience of a gold currency for all purposes of private life needs no demonstration, and indeed its higher suitability for all commercial operations is equally clear. Its compactness renders its transport easy and economical, and saves the labour and loss of time which the payment of large sums in silver entails. Its actual intrinsic value in a small form alone would commend it as a circulating medium in preference to silver.

There are so many antagonistic elements in the system of a double standard of gold and silver, that it cannot long continue without one or other of the metals entirely superseding the other; and although there are many objections to the single silver standard, I confess that it appears to me greatly preferable to the double. At least under the silver standard, fresh supplies of the only circulating medium must continually be provided for the public, but, under a double standard, the probability is that the country would soon be entirely denuded of silver, and we should be practically left to the action of an imperfect gold currency, deprived of the great convenience of a subsidiary silver token coinage.

I trust, therefore, that the Chamber may adopt the proposal for a gold currency, upon a single gold standard for India, and urgently call the attention of Government to the important subject.—I have the honor of being, Sir, your obedient servant,

(Signed) WALTER R. CASSELS.

December 8th, 1863.

MINUTE BY MR. H. BROOKE.

To the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce,

SIR,—The letters of Mr. Walter Cassels to the Chamber of Commerce recommending the adoption of a Gold Currency and Standard for India open out a subject which requires much deliberation before resolving upon any alteration in the existing currency. I think, however, it can be shown that an alteration is desirable and can be effected with but trifling inconvenience to any class of the community, and that such alteration will lead to the more steady interchange of commodities, which I take to be the use of *money*.

It will simplify discussion if we first consider the probable effects of the three courses which appear to be open to us, viz:—

To leave things as they are.

To adopt a gold currency and standard as suggested by Mr. Cassels, or

To retain the character of the Rupee, make the Sovereign a legal tender for ten Rupees, and Government Notes a legal tender all over India, restricting their issue within certain manageable limits.

The effect of leaving things as they are. The tendency of the current of silver to set towards India and China has been apparent for the last twenty years, and, with temporary intermissions caused by the Chinese indemnities, has been constantly increasing in force until it has now become evident that the balance of trade cannot be arranged without a great disturbance in the foreign Exchanges between the East and Europe.

Under similar circumstances between European nations, the balance of trade would be liquidated by the production and export by the indebted country of numerous new articles suited to the consumption of the creditor country, but in the East and particularly in India silver performs not only the function of money properly so called, but also furnishes a convenient form of property and is accumulated in hoards as an insurance against future want. In India money is not invested by the great mass of the people but hoarded.

If therefore India suddenly finds herself in the position of a creditor towards other countries, she will not take commodities in exchange, but that metal which is employed as money—hence, as long as India is the creditor of Europe and the only current money is silver, she will inexorably demand that metal.

The disappearance of the silver coin first in America, then of the surplus in England, and latterly the scarcity of 5 franc pieces in France, indicate that the stock of silver in Europe is close upon being exhausted and that we shall shortly have nothing to draw upon but the annual produce of the mines which may be roughly estimated at ten millions sterling.

The portion of the Indian cotton crop, available for export in 1864, may be fairly estimated at 1,800,000 bales against 600,000 previous to 1858, and the value respectively at £45,000,000 against £5,000,000. We have therefore a surplus of forty millions to receive.

Assuming that the consumption of piece goods in India will be maintained at its maximum, say about twenty millions of pieces per annum, and that prices have risen on the average from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 per piece, we have a set off of ten millions, reducing the balance to thirty millions, and granting that the consumption of copper and other metals will increase to the extent of five millions and other general goods to another five millions, we have still twenty millions to receive from Europe.

I believe I have estimated these amounts at an excessive value but it is best to do so in a case of this kind.

We have therefore to balance twenty millions with silver to the value of ten millions. What will be the effect? Inevitably an advance in the value of silver. First gradual, then rapid, and finally speculative, until gold is forced out as a *pis aller* to balance accounts.

It is difficult to over estimate the confusion that must arise in all international and even internal transactions until things find their level, but it is certain that a commercial crisis of no common intensity must be the result.

This I apprehend will be the effect of *leaving things as they are.*

The second course is that proposed by Mr. Cassels, to adopt a gold currency and standard.

Although not so expressly stated by Mr. Cassels it follows that the adoption of a gold standard necessarily implies the demonetization of all the silver coined in India which may not be required for the purposes of a subordinate currency, and, considering the general poverty of the country it is doubtful if the circulating coin exceeds, if it amounts to twenty millions sterling.

The balance of the silver existing in India will therefore be reduced to a mere commodity available only for ornament or for purposes of export.—Silver Rupees being no longer legal tender for large sums, the object of hoarding them will be destroyed, as the preference will be at once transferred to that coin which is exchangeable at once for commodities. Silver coin will then be reduced, to the same position that gold now occupies and will become a comparatively useless commodity only convertible into currency as it may be in demand for trade purposes.

The number of families in India may be roughly estimated at thirty millions, and considering the habit of the lower orders of loading themselves with anklets, belts, neck-chains and armlets and their further custom of hoarding rupees from one generation to another, it would be a very low estimate to assume that each family possessed an average value of silver in ornaments and coin of Rupees one hundred—we have then the enormous sum of three hundred millions sterling now locked up in silver and which is to the possessors the most convenient and reliable form of wealth.

This enormous sum is to be, at one blow, reduced to the condition of an ordinary article of trade.

It is not necessary to expatiate on the injustice of such a course towards the people of India, its mere statement is sufficient to ensure its condemnation.

As soon as the ignorant portion of the native community found that certain discs of silver which they had hitherto been accustomed to call Rupees, and to associate in their minds with a given quantity of food, raiment, cattle, &c. became nothing more than pieces of white metal, they would naturally conceive themselves cheated out of their hard-earned wealth; a cry of oppression would ring from one end of India to the other, riots would ensue, and the obnoxious law would have to be hastily and ignominiously repealed.

But granting for the sake of argument that the effect was not immediately recognised, and that silver still maintained nearly its previous equivalent as a commodity, the native would speedily attempt to convert his old silver coins into the new money, and a demand for gold would set in gradually intensifying until all the spare silver would be exported.—The disturbance in the European currencies would be equally disastrous, gold would become extraordinarily scarce and silver would become an unproductive burden in the hands

of the bullion dealers.—A general monetary crisis would ensue and we should have equally to retrace our steps.

This, it seems to me, would be the effect of carrying out the proposition of a gold currency and standard.

To come to the third course. To retain the character of the Rupees, make the Sovereign legal tender for ten Rupees and Government Notes legal tender all over India, restricting their issue within certain manageable limits.

This proposition is the adoption of what is commonly called the double standard and which has been assailed by Michel Chevalier, J. S. Mill and some other professed political economists of note, but without any success amongst practical men, if we except the legislators of Holland and Belgium, who believing that gold would short, become as cheap as silver summarily demonetised the former metal, retaining a silver standard only.

It cannot be denied that a very good philosophical case can be made out against the use of a double standard, and Michel Chevalier makes the best of his argument which is mainly as follows :

If a double standard exists, and gold and silver are liable to fluctuation from time to time, debtors, and amongst them all Governments will pay their creditors in that metal which happens at the time to be the cheapest, constantly reducing the weight of the coin of the dearer metal to its equivalent in the cheaper. Thus if gold were to fall in value against silver to one half, all the silver would be exported and to retain any small change, it would be necessary to reduce the weight of the Rupee to one half —again should some new mode of procuring silver be invented or discovered, silver would be so plentiful as against gold that all the gold coin would be melted down and exported, and to retain any gold coins in circulation, it would be necessary to reduce the weight of the gold coin in proportion to the cheapness of silver, thus if silver fell one half, the gold coin would have to be reduced to half its weight. If gold again became plentiful a similar process would be renewed until the rupee would first be worth only eight annas, then four annas, then two annas and ultimately nothing at all.

If we grant the probability of Mr. Chevalier's proposition, his reasoning is irresistible, but every thing depends on this probability, an

it is evident that no practical men believe in it, as no statesmen of any note have yet been found to endorse it.

The double standard is in existence in France, in the United States and in most European countries and was so in England until 1816, when silver having ceased to be used except as a subsidiary metal and so far had become virtually demonetised, gold was made the sole standard of value.

But if we look back to the history of civilisation we shall find a double standard or in other words an alternative currency constantly existing. Thus in the early times, cattle seems to have formed the standard of value in some countries, slaves in another, some description of food in a third and so on. As these commodities became inconvenient to transport from place to place, other commodities took their place, as cowries for instance in Africa and formerly in India where instead of paying in bullocks, a certain number of cowries came to be considered an equivalent or legal tender if we may use the expression. As cowries came to be inconvenient, certain copper dumps or coins circulated side by side with the cowries until copper became too bulky, and certain quantities of silver bullion or coins were accepted as the equivalents ; as wealth increased gold coins circulated side by side with the silver coins until the silver found other uses, then came the Bank Notes era, notes circulating by side with gold or silver, and lastly comes Credit displacing the Notes, and converting the gold and silver coins into small change, releasing the surplus for export to other poorer countries.

This system it is true may not be a very philosophical arrangement, but it recommends itself by its simplicity and its expediency. If notes in England will answer the purpose of gold, the gold can be gradually exported to France and other European countries which are advancing in wealth, France can export its silver to India, India can melt up its copper coin and export its cowries to Africa, and Africa can export its slaves to the United States whose inhabitants can again produce gold and complete the circle.

I apprehend that India is now in a fit state to receive a gold coinage and to export gradually its silver to China and other silver consuming countries ; but to effect this without hardship to the present holders of silver, we must preserve an alternative currency until the bulk of the silver may be displaced, when gold will naturally assert its pre-

eminence and become the standard. The advantage of the alternative currency thus appears to be its imperceptible and self-acting property, distributing to all nations in proportion to their civilization such commomodities as are most suitable and convenient for the purpose of money and diffusing industry and wealth in a constantly progressive ratio. Thus the gold discoveries are beginning to be regarded by statesmen as a powerful element of civilization, instead of as supposed by Michel Chevalier and others an almost unmitigated evil.

That gold will not fall materially in price we may rest assured from the following simple facts.

Since the discoveries of America or from 1,500 to 1,800 the supply of the precious metals was about 1,650 millions or about 5½ millions per annum. From 1800 to 1848 about six hundred millions or twelve millions per annum, from 1848 to 1864 seven hundred millions, or forty-five millions per annum.

After the first stimulus given to trade, prices settled down to a permanent level, which has hardly been appreciably affected for the last three hundred years, and in the last ten years the state of the money market has actually indicated increasing scarcity of the preious metals, showing that the activity of our mercantile system is amply.competent to absorb and distribute any amount of any commodity whether it be gold, silver, corn, coals or even negroes.

We may therefore dismiss from our minds any fears of a depreciated currency from the admission of gold as an alternative legal tender, fairly trusting that free trade will distribute to each nation that proportion of the earth's products to which it is entitled by its industry and intelligence.

I had intended to have entered into the subject of the paper currency and the rights of the public creditor to special consideration, but I have already occupied so much space that these points must be left for discussion until they may be more prominently brought forward —I am Sir your obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BROOKE.

MINUTE BY MR. T. R. R. DAVISON.

H. BROOKE, Esq.

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

The introduction of a gold currency into India could not fail to prove both useful and convenient to the community if the inherent difficulties of the question were previously solved in a satisfactory manner by an official and competent Committee. Mr. Cassels' letters do not appear to offer any practical suggestions for the solution of these difficulties, but it is to be hoped that the action he has taken in the matter, and the renewed interest which his letters will impart to this important question, may induce the Government to make it the subject of their early and serious consideration.

The immediate issue of paper money against gold coin or gold bullion, as proposed by Mr. Cassels, could hardly prove of any practical utility, as the notes to be issued would rapidly find their way to the Presidency Banks and thus enhance rather than diminish the present embarrassments of these institutions.

A measure of this nature, under present circumstances, would only appear to be justifiable in so far as the supplies of silver and the producing powers of the Indian mints might provide for the additional specie demand thus created.

If the question of a gold currency be settled in principle and sufficient proof be elicited that a gold coinage would be acceptable to the native community of the Presidency towns, and the Mofussil, the Government would, no doubt, take the most natural course which suggests itself, and adopt the home currency system, the sovereign forming the monetary unit and being so sub-divided as would best suit the habits and convenience of Indian usage.

The settlement of a question of this importance and of the many points which it involves could not, however, be very immediate, and India might meanwhile suffer from a recurrence of the present monetary difficulties.

Supplementary Mint arrangements for coining "Rupees" at home and thus precluding the delay necessarily incurred here, might meanwhile prove extremely useful, and would not appear to offer any great difficulty of detail, for the present insufficiency of the Indian Mints has undoubtedly tended, to a great extent, to prolong the crisis from which all are suffering.

For the Agency of the Comptoir D'Escompte de Paris.

(Signed) T. B. R. DAVISION, Acting Manager.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. SOUZA, PINTO & Co.

To the Secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—Without entering seriatim into the reasons advanced by Mr. Cassels with the view of shewing the expediency of adopting a gold currency on a gold standard for India, we would merely express our entire approval of his remarks generally: and seeing the benefits likely to arise from the proposed gold currency, we trust the Chamber may advocate its adoption and at once lay the matter before Government.

It is unfortunate in many respects that India has not long ere this possessed such a real currency, and the evils arising from her being restricted to silver were never more clearly seen than at the present time, nor the desirability of a change more apparent.

We should be glad also to see Indian currency assimilated to that of Great Britain.

(Signed) SOUZA, PINTO & Co.

Bombay, 8th January, 1864.

MINUTE BY MESSRS. STEWART & Co.

To the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

SIR,—In compliance with the wish of the Committee, we have now the pleasure of stating our opinion as to the desirability of a gold currency in India, so aptly raised by Mr. Cassels.

That a change from a gold to a silver standard of currency is desirable on all the grounds of economy needs from us no argumentative support. The proposition that gold is easier coined and easier carried, because of the higher value attached to it, has long been self-evident in every school of economy.

But a change of currency, however desirable in the interest of commerce, abstractly considerred, invites discussion of a moral and political character. These aspects of the question have not escaped Mr. Cassels' attention, but beyond a general condemnation of the absorption of silver by means of such agencies as "bangle" and "stocking food," or its substitute, we do not find a single argument

in favor of the people of India being prepared for such a change. If the Chamber is asked to petition the Government to assimilate the currencies of England and India, surely it becomes those who agitate in that direction to shew that the sense of value entertained in India is the same as that entertained in England.

But that is exactly what Mr. Cassels' disproves, when he labours to show in the beginning of his first letter, that the great demand for coined silver is not for currency purposes, but for hoarding and for ornaments. No such demands exist in England to any extent. If they are natural to India in a semi-civilized state ; if they are the true expressions of the sense of value entertained by such a large number of natives, as to affect all markets, then we ask any master, or desciple of economy to explain how these demands, ultimate in their character and fixed as to their silver qualities, are to be supplied Are they to be suppressed as immoval, or directed into a new channel by the implements of a forced law ?

If the constitution of gold as a legal tender and the introduction of silver tokens, would educate the native mind to a true sense of value, no doubt a change would be desirable.

It is because we believe the change proposed would have no such result, but rather distil into the native mind distrust of the motives of the changes and suspicion of the value of what was changed, that we cannot support Mr. Cassels in the proposed petition. We should fear if the Government adopts any such advice and cows broadcast a new sense of value over the present unprepared ground of India that it will reap nothing but crops of disorder and disaffection amid which abstract commercial considerations may be last.

We adopt, however, a suggestion thrown out in one of Mr. Cassels' letters, viz. a recommendation to the Government to increase the coining power of the mint. If silver be a barbarous medium of exchange the duty of a civilized Government to make the most of it, is surely the more urgent. Bar silver given, and when in this crisis was it not given, or when will it be that demand will not stimulate supply, it is the duty of the Mint to meet all demands upon it, however extravagant in the light of past events they may appear. If it cannot do this, the Government must bear the burden of blame, and any accusation of want of thought, that Mr. Cassels' writing has brought to light.

There is one fact to which Mr. Cassels calls attention which has the appearance of strengthening his argument in favour of a change, viz. the increasing imports of gold. We doubt if the inference he draws is more probable in its truth, than that such increase is due to a growing demand for gold ornament. Acceding the fact, however, that an increasing number of natives are either intelligent enough to define currency properly, or tasty enough to prefer gold to silver ornaments, and that there would be a demand measurable by the intelligence of the country, we are ready to support any one in an endeavour to move clause IX of the Currency Bill into action. We even agree with Mr. Cassels, when he hypothecates "if the question of a double standard of gold and silver be complicated in some respects, it is quite susceptible of solution but dissent when another opinion is expressed, although there are many objections to the single silver standard, I confess that it appears to me infinitely preferable to the double. We might agree with the last proposition were there any intention of making a double standard permanent, but if the complications were solved so as to make a stepping stone for change, or to afford a test of the real wants of India there can be few objections.

If the test be not used, and we should deprecate the Government's doing more than putting the test optionally in the hands of the community, we may be sure by all the principles of sound economy that it is not suitable.

Since the above was written we have seen Mr. Brooke's minute which is ably reasoned. The conclusion he has arrived at is much the same as our own, though the process of reasoning is conducted on different ground. We presume, his proposition for the introduction of sovereigns, include half sovereigns, as equivalent to five Rupees each. The convenience resulting from such a change would of course depend upon the use made of it by the natives.—We are, dear Sir, your's respectfully,

(Signed) STEWART & Co.

Bombay, 6th January 1864.

No. 21 OF 1864.

To the Chief Secretary to Government, Bombay.

SIR,—By direction of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce I have the honor to hand you enclosed, the Memorial of the Chamber

to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, on the desirability of introducing a Gold Currency into India.

The Committee trusts that in forwarding the Memorial, His Excellency the Governor in Council will support the views of the Chamber.—I have the honor to be Sir, your most obedient Servant,

H. BROOKE, Secretary.

Bombay, 19th February, 1864.

TO THE RIGHT HON'BLE SIR JOHN LAWRENCE, G.C.B. G.M.S.I.,

&c. &c. &c.

VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL OF INDIA IN COUNCIL.

THE RESPECTFUL MEMORIAL OF THE BOMBAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

SHEWETH,—That the monetary condition of India is in a most unsound and unsatisfactory state, and that its exclusive silver currency is no longer adequate for the circulation of the increased and increasing amount of commodities through its vast population.

That within the last ten years the trade of Bombay has been trebled, and that last year the aggregate export and import trade alone of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay amounted to 1,060 millions of Rupees.

That the resources of India are only now beginning to be developed, and that its commerce and industry, now stimulated into healthy activity, are rapidly expanding in every direction.

That the wise regulation of our currency, therefore, demands the immediate and serious attention of Government.

That when our silver standard and currency were introduced, the production of silver amounted to double that of gold, and was therefore reasonably selected for this country.

That whilst the demand of India has enormously increased, the production of silver has remained unaltered, and has become insufficient.

That the annual produce of silver throughout the world does not exceed 10 millions sterling.

That during the last six years the average annual importation and absorption of silver by India alone has amounted to 11½ millions sterling, and that last year the amount imported was no less than 14½ millions.

That India alone, therefore, has consumed during the last six years, on an average, 15 per cent. and last year nearly 50 per cent. more silver than the whole world annually produces.

That the annual aggregate demand for silver throughout the world may be fairly estimated at about treble the annual production.

That great scarcity and enhancement in the value of silver must inevitably ensue, from this excessive disproportion between demand and supply.

That the inevitable decrease in the amount of our currency, therefore, just at a time when the amount of commodities to be circulated has so enormously increased, and a consequent violent derangement of prices, cannot fail to be most disastrous to India.

That the continued drain of silver for India must derange, if not eventually destroy, the silver currency of all other nations.

That it is the interest of the world, as well as of India, to check the exhaustive drain of silver, by the introduction of gold into our currency.

That the special demand of India for silver does not arise from any predilection for that metal, but is compulsory, and due only to our exclusive and inconvenient silver currency.

That while the production of silver has remained unaltered, in spite of increased demand, and is so insufficient, the production of gold has largely increased, and annually amounts to at least 150 per cent. more than that of silver.

That this complete revolution in the relative quantities of the precious metals, and the discovery of gold in an adjacent country, naturally suggests the necessity of a corresponding adjustment of our currency, and the introduction of gold.

That while there is not enough of silver for India, and for other countries, there is abundance of gold for all.

That while silver must be transported from a great distance, and reaches us burdened with heavy charges, gold may be cheaply procured from neighbouring countries.

That from its enhanced cost in India, we cannot profitably or without loss re-export silver, and its reproductive power is thus lost to this country.

That our silver standard and currency, therefore, force India to continue the "sink" of this precious metal, adding the reluctant absorption of commerce to the characteristic absorption of the ryot.

That instead of being the last recipients, and the absorbers of silver, we might become the first importers, and the distributors of gold.

That India is virtually compelled to purchase silver, the dearer and scarcer of the precious metals, and prevented taking gold which is cheaper, and more abundant.

That obtaining money cheaper we should obtain all other commodities cheaper also.

That the heavy charges with which silver is burdened are a serious, and unnecessary, loss to India.

That our exclusive silver standard and currency renders direct trade with Australia, and other gold producing districts, impossible, and forces a country, with abundance of the more precious metal, to traverse half the globe in search of silver, before she can pay for our commodities.

That this prohibitive currency, which excludes us from commercial intercourse with neighbouring countries, must severely injure the interests of India.

That a silver currency is bulky and inconvenient, and entails much expense upon India.

That the cost of transport is a serious item in state charges, and in private accounts, the weight of £1000 sterling in rupees being no less than 312 lbs. 6oz. troy.

That the mere loss of time in counting, weighing, and examining it is vexatious and embarrassing.

That the cumbrous nature of our silver currency not only causes much heavy and unnecessary expense, but from the impossibility of its rapid transmission from point to point, renders it necessary for Government to retain large and unprofitable balances in the various treasuries.

That the accumulation of Government and private funds, which the difficulty of transport necessitates, not only causes much loss of interest, but restricts all business operations.

That the introduction of a gold currency into India would promote an equable distribution of the precious metals, and restore their relative equilibrium.

That the superior convenience of gold, and its adaptation to native wants, would secure an immediate and intelligent welcome for a gold currency in India.

That circulation would be expedited by it, and commerce, therefore, be facilitated and increased.

That the importation of gold has for many years steadily increased, though it is not a legal tender, the amount imported last year being nearly 7 millions sterling, and that, from the 1st May to the 31st December, since the returns quoted, no less than 3½ millions sterling of gold were imported into Bombay alone.

That there is an increasing tendency to the creation of a gold ingot currency, by the natives of this country, as a rude remedy for the defects of the existing silver one.

That gold bars, stamped with the mark of Bombay Banks, are for this purpose circulated in several parts of the country.

That the exclusion of gold from our currency cannot be justified, and cannot be considered other than barbarous, irrational, and unnatural.

That it is only just and reasonable that India should be allowed the benefits which she would secure from the introduction of a gold currency.

That recent financial derangements warn us of the necessity of immediate reform.

That the longer this reform is delayed, the more difficult will it become.

That your memorialists, therefore, earnestly entreat your Excellency in Council to take this important question at once into serious consideration, and to effect an amendment, which is so loudly called for, by introducing a well regulated gold currency into India.

By order of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce,

(Signed) WALTER R. CASSELS.
MICHAEL H. SCOTT.
ALEXANDER BROWN.

No. 265 OF 1864.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq,

Secretary to Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 19th ultimo, No. 21, forwarding the Memorial of the Chamber to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council on the desirability of introducing a Gold Currency into India, and to state that the Memorial has been submitted to the Government of India.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) A D. ROBERTSON,
Officiating Chief Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 10th March 1864.

No. 1516.

To the Officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 252, dated 7th March 1864, and to state that the subject of a Gold Currency for India is under the consideration of Government. I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) E. H. LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Fort William, 18th March 1864.

No. 395 OF 1864.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, with reference to his letter, No. 164, dated 19th February, and the Government reply thereto, No. 265, dated 10th March.

(Signed) J. B. RICHEY,
Officiating Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 12th April 1864.

No. 880 OF 1864.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

To H. BROOKE, Esq.,

Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay.

Sir,—With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter, dated 18th April last, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to refer you to the Resolution* of the Government of India, dated the 12th July following for an answer to the Memorial from the Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India praying for the introduction of the Gold Currency into India.

* Published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* of the 15th July 1864 and republished in the *Bombay Government Gazette's* Supplement of the 29th July 1864.

2. I am at the same time desired to forward herewith Copies of Minutes by His Excellency Lieutenant General Sir W. R. Mansfield K. C. B., dated the 8th March last and 4th instant on the subject.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. E. JACOMB,
Officiating Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 31st August 1864.

APPENDIX J.

MHYJEE FAIR.

No. 311 OF 1864.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,—I am directed to forward herewith the accompanying copy of a Report on the Mhyjee Fair of 1863, together with a copy of the Resolution of Government on the same, and to request that you will, with the permission of the Chamber of Commerce, favor Government with any remarks which may occur to the Members of the Chamber in regard to any of the subjects discussed in the report.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

(Signed) H. BIRDWOOD,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

Bombay Castle, 29th January 1864.

No. 312 OF 1864.

Extract from the proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Judicial Department, dated 29th January 1864.

Read the following :—

Letter from Mr. B. H. Ellis, Commissioner of Police, Northern Division, dated 16th June 1863, No. 659.

I have the honor to forward, for submission to Government, a report on this year's Mhyjee Fair by Lieutenant Daniell, 2nd Assistant Superintendent of Police in Khandeish.

No. 21, 15th April 1863.

2. Mr. Ashburner in handing up the report has stated as follows :—

No. 670, 27th ultimo.

" The usual Military and Police Force appears to have been very judiciously disposed of by Lieutenant Daniell, and their vigilance must have been great for there were only 9 cases of petty theft in the Fair of property valued at Rupees 64-4-9; the whole of which was recovered, and in 8 out of the 9 cases the thieves were apprehended and punished.

The total amount of business transacted in the Fair is estimated at Rupees 49,41,677, being Rupees 3,54,437 in excess of last year, the data from which this estimate is made is of the most unsatisfactory and untrustworthy nature. Five Carkoons are stationed at the entrances to the Fair, and record the contents of the carts and their value according to the statements of the cartmen; no examination or enquiry is made to test the correctness of the data thus obtained, and it must often happen that the cartmen in the absence of the owner of the goods is unable to give any information as to their quantity or value, or even the contents of the packages.

The amount also includes transactions in Cotton, Exchange and Hoondies, of which it is impossible to obtain any information without an objectionable interference in private affairs.

Rupees 274-5-3 are annually expended in procuring the statistics from which this estimate of the business done in the Fair is made, it is from the nature of the case so incorrect as to be of little or no value. I have therefore to suggest that the services of the statistical Carkoons should for the future be dispensed with, and the money expended in repairing the road from the Railway Station to the Fair.

Lieutenant Daniell attributes the increase to the high price of Cotton and Grain, and if there has been an increase the present high prices would no doubt account for it.

It is estimated that there has been a decrease of Rupees 3,52,326 in transactions in Piece Goods, and the trade in Nagpoor cloths has decreased by the sum of Rupees 6,37,192. Lieutenant Daniell points out that the present prices of Cotton make it more profitable for the Nagpoor and Berar merchants to export their Cotton than to manufacture it on the spot, the decreased consumption of Nagpoor cloth may account for the increased sale in the Fair of English Piece Goods to the amount of half a Lac. The returns are so

untrustworthy that it is impossible to draw any sound conclusions from them.

A temporary Railway Station and Telegraph Office was opened during the continuance of the Fair, and was found of the greatest value, but the decline of the Fair may be anticipated as soon as the works of the Thull Ghaut are finished. Traders will prefer purchasing in the Bombay Market as soon as they can secure an uninterrupted transit for their goods, and it is hoped that by that time the plunder of merchandize alluded to by Lieutenant Daniell by the Subordinate Railway Officials will have been put an end to.

There is a balance in hand of Rupees 2,315-14-7 of the Mhyjee Fund, which Lieutenant Daniell suggests shall be expended as follows:—

	Rs.	*a.*	*p.*
Making road from Mhyjee to the Railway Station	1,000	0	0
Repairs to Kutcherry and Dhurumshala and finishing Guard House.....	500	0	0
Bridge over the Girna 1864.....	200	0	0
Planting and watering trees	200	0	0
Repairs of roads leading to the Fair.....	200	0	0
Total.... Rs.	2,100	0	0

The proposed works are all of great importance, and will be commenced immediately after the monsoon, a balance of Rupees 215-14-7 will remain in hand for contingencies, and if not required will be expended on the roads in the neighbourhood of the Fair.

3. The Fair appears to have been successful; the total absence of any serious offence against person or property is most satisfactory, and highly creditable to Lieutenant Daniell's arrangements.

4. The increase in the value of the business done seems to be accounted for by the rise in prices rather than by an increase in the amount of business. The transactions, however, are not behind those of last year, which exceeded the transactions of 1861 by Rupees 13,97,914, and which again were no less than 11½ Lacs above the average of the preceding twenty years. The easy

access to the Fair by rail and the ready means of communication by telegraph with the Presidency, exercised this year a new influence on the trade. Lieutenant Daniell's remarks on the business in Cotton and Cotton Goods will be read with interest.

Paragraphs 9 and 17.

5. Mr. Ashburner's observations on the incompleteness of the statistics regarding the value of the goods brought and sold, have reference to the passage in the Government Resolution marginally quoted. The collection of data at any large fair must be attended with very great difficulties; but it is, in my opinion, better that the statistics should remain in their present unsatisfactory state than that vexatious interference with the traders should be sanctioned.

No. 3099, dated 24th August 1862, paragraph 1st, "the Governor in Council is led to suspect that the returns are not quite accurate; and the Magistrate of Khandeish should be requested to examine the data from which they have been prepared, with a view to ensure accuracy in future, should any defect be observable in the present returns."

6. I cannot concur in Mr. Ashburner's recommendation that the services of the statistical Carcoons should be dispensed with. The amount expended in their pay is not large, and the cost is defrayed from special taxes. There are funds available from the same source for the repair of the road from the Railway Station to the Fair without interfering with this grant, and I would not discontinue the present attempt at approximate statistics of the trade unless something better can be suggested in substitution. The Collector should consult the leading traders who may be able to devise some plan to secure a more accurate record in future years.

7. Extract paragraph 26 from Lieutenant Daniell's report, suggesting the opening of the Rail for Mhyjee a fortnight before the commencement of the Fair, may be sent to the Railway Company for information.

8. In paragraph 27, Lieutenant Daniell brings to notice the robberies on the Railway line, especially at the break between Kussara and Egutpooree. When at the latter place last month, I met Gullianjee Sewjee the Contractor for carrying goods on the Thul Ghaut, and arrangements have been made, which will, I hope, provide for the security of property in future.

9. The works proposed by Mr. Ashburner out of the balance from

the proceeds at the Fair are all useful, and the necessary order will be issued for their being proceeded with soon after the rains.

10. Both Messrs. Ashburner and Daniell seem to think that the Fair will decline on the opening of the Railway communication over the Thull Ghaut. This is of course possible, but Mhyjee is sufficiently distant from Bombay to render it not improbable that the Fair will continue to flourish, even after the Railway is completed.

11. Lieutenant Daniell should have distinguished the items not credited to the Fair from those which form the Fund. The attention of the Magistrate will be called to this, with a view to the collections being separately shewn in future reports.

Letter from Lieutenant H. Daniell, 2nd Assistant Superintendent of Police, Khandeish, dated 15th April 1863, No. 21, to the Collector and Magistrate of Khandeish.

I have the honor to forward you the Annual Report of the Mhyjee Fair for the year 1863.

2. The Fair commenced on the 4th January and closed on the 10th March.

3. The undermentioned Force was employed in the Fair for the preservation of order and the protection of traders.

138 Men 6th Regiment N. I., under the command of Captain Milford.
130 Khandish Bheel Corps.
30 Poona Horse.
30 Unarmed Police.
150 Bheel Chowkeydars.

4. The Detachments of Her Majesty's 6th Regiment Native Infantry and Khandeish Bheel Corps furnished Picquets on all the main roads at the entrance to the Fair, and guards in all the main streets of the Fair by night. The Poona Horse were employed in patrolling all the roads within several miles of the Fair, and visited the Bheel Chowkeydars, daily, to see that they were all at their posts. The unarmed Police were at all times on duty within the Fair, each man having his beat assigned to him. The Bheel Chow-

keydars were posted with intervals of two miles between each Chowkey on all the main roads leading to the Fair.

5. The Detachment of Her Majesty's 6th Regiment Native Infantry did not arrive until the 17th January. Its arrival was marked by the real commencement of business; many traders who had arrived some days before, would not even unpack their goods until the Detachment of Regular Native Infantry arrived.

6. It has been more than once proposed to dispense with the services of Regular Troops in the Fair. The abovementioned circumstance is a proof that their presence exerts a great influence within the Fair, and gives Traders a sense of security, without which the Fair would soon lose its importance.

7. The total amount of business transacted in the Fair this year was Rupees 49,41,677, exceeding last year's Fair by Rupees 3,54,437.

8. This increase is due, in the first place, to the enormous rise in the price of Cotton, and to the high price of Grain of all sorts, and in the next place to the greater amount of business done in grain this year.

9. The amount of business done in cleaned Cotton in the Fair last year and in the year under report, is as follows:—

Year.	Maunds of cotton.	Rupees.
1862.....	36,202	4,86,613
1863.....	30,571	10,47,831

Difference in Rupees in favour of.... 5,61,218

This statement shows a decrease in the amount of Cotton sold in the Fair this year to the extent of 5-631 Maunds, but a rise of considerably more than 250 per cent. in the value of this important article.

10. The above statement will show how exceedingly poor was last year's crop of Cotton in Khandeish, when it is taken into consideration how much larger an area of ground was put under cotton cultivation in this Province last year than in the year before.

11. This Cotton itself was not brought into the Fair, the owners only bringing a few Bales, or a small quantity as samples of the

remainder, and the business being chiefly transacted on the weekly market day.

12. The amount of business done in Piece goods shows a decided decrease as compared with the sales last year:—

Piece goods in the Fair in 1862....	Rs.	15,84,150
„ „ in 1863....	„	12,31,824
Difference.....	Rs.	3,52,326

The above table shows a balance of upwards of three and a half Lacs of Rupees in favour of last year. This however is fully accounted for by the decrease in Cotton Goods from Berar, classed under the head of "Nagpoor" as shown by the following table, of

Nagpoor cloth brought into the Fair in 1862.....	Rs.	8,51,838
„ „ in 1863.....	„	2,14,646
Difference.....	Rs.	6,37,192

showing this year a decrease of more than six Lacs of Rupees.

13. With present prices, Berar dealers prefer sending their Cotton to Bombay to selling it on the spot for the purpose of making twist. I made diligent enquiry while the Fair was going on, and find that, with the exception of the coarsest and commonest Cotton Goods; and some of peculiarly fine texture, the whole of the Piece Goods brought into the Fair were made from English yarns.

14. In consequence of the facilities for obtaining information afforded by the Railway Telegraph, prices were entirely ruled by the Bombay Market. Towards the end of January the price of Piece Goods rose, and continued steadily to rise throughout the remaining period of the Fair, dealers latterly making a profit of from 20 to 25 per cent. on the Goods they originally brought into the Fair.

15. The value of the Piece Goods as shown in the above table shews their value as estimated by the owners at the time the Goods were brought into the Fair. To this must be added the profits on the sales, which may this year be safely estimated at two Lacs of Rupees.

16. In European Piece Goods the business done in the Fair in the year under report amounted to more than Rupees 50,000 in excess of the sales of last year.

17. The value of the twist brought into the Fair, and sold this year, amounted to nearly double the sales of last year.

Twist sold in 1862..... Rs. 44,700
„ „ 1863..... „ 88,710

Difference in favour of 1863..... Rs. 44,010

These sales were effected towards the conclusion of the Fair when the steadily rising price of Piece Goods afforded the prospect of large profits. In consequence however of the great increase in the price of this staple, many weavers have been thrown out of employ, and have left their homes to seek employment on the Railway works and elsewhere.

18. The business done in the Grain Bazar, this year, amounted to Rupees 1,02,307, last year, according to the returns, the sales amounted to Rupees 40,235. A large portion of this excess is due to my having succeeded in obtaining information with regard to the business done in Linseed, which I was unable to do last year.

The sales of Linseed this year were;—

Maups.	Seers.	Rupees.
1503	20	37,884

Linseed is not brought into the Fair in any quantity, but the sales are effected in the same manner as those in Cotton.

19. After deducting this amount from the total of business done in the Grain Bazar this year, there is still an excess of Rupees 24,188 over the business done in last year's Fair. This is chiefly accountable to the increased price of Grain of every kind, more especially in this part of Khandeish. "Toor" was imported from Berar and Boorhanpoor, Rice from Nassick, and Wheat from the western districts of Khandeish. The high prices and scarcity also induced the Bunneas to bring out their long buried stores of Grain; of this a large quantity was disposed of in the Fair.

20. The restriction imposed by His Highness the Nizam on the export of Grain from his territory continued in force this year.

21. The sales effected in the Metal Bazar show an increase of more than Rupees 32,000 over the sales of last year's Fair. The

increase is chiefly in Copper, Brass and the commonest sort of Iron (Soortee), and is due to this year being (according to the Shastras) a very favorable year for marriage among the Hindoos. Naturally too, a portion of the profits made by cultivators in Cotton is applied to the purchase of household utensils.

22. The business done in the Jewellery Bazar this year shows a slight falling off, as compared with last year. The decrease is chiefly in Pearls, which are usually purchased by Bunneas and other wealthy classes. The Pearls brought into the Fair this year were said to be high priced and of very inferior quality.

23. The business done in coarse groceries, medicines and miscellaneous articles shows a slight increase over last year, but not more than can be accounted for by the rising prices of merchandise of every sort.

24. The business done in the Hoondee Bazar also shows a slight increase over last year. A great proportion of the business done in Hoondies is of course supported by the local currency, but a considerable amount of specie was constantly arriving in the Fair. The average rate of exchange in the Fair was 1 per cent. discount. It rarely exceeded this, as owing to the facilities afforded by the Railway and Telegraph a constant supply of money was available in the hands of the Bankers.

25. The Railway Station and Siding for Mhyjee were only commenced a few days before the Fair opened, and until the works were actually commenced, the site of the proposed Station was not known. Under these circumstances it was of course impossible that the road from the Fair to the Railway Station, sanctioned by Government last year, could be commenced. It will however be ready before the opening of next year's Fair.

26. The Mhyjee Railway Station was opened to the public on the 24th January. It proved a great boon to all classes attending the Fair, and if it were opened next year a fortnight before the commencement of the Fair, the Railway Company would, I think, be well repaid.

27. Native Traders somewhat lost confidence in the Railway, from finding on several occasions, that bales of Goods consigned to them had been opened on the road from Bombay, a portion of the contents abstracted, and the space filled up with stones and rubbish. These bales always arrived at their destination carefully sewn up,

and it was only on opening them that the owners discovered the loss. As it must take a considerable time to commit the theft and then sew up the bale with care, it is probable that this is a system of pilfering carried on on the Thull Ghaut, which the Railway Company may be able to check if brought to their notice.

28. The temporary Electric Telegraph Office at the Railway Station proved of the utmost value to the Fair, and exercised wholesome influence on the trade.

29. I think it probable that the Fair will now gradually decrease in importance, though change may not be noticed to any great extent until the Railway is finished over the Thull Ghaut, and the country opened up towards Jubbulpoor and through Berar. Wealthy dealers who have hitherto purchased their supplies at Mhyjee will most probably have their Agents in Bombay, and the numerous petty dealers who consume the largest proportion of Goods in the Fair will in time appreciate the advantage afforded by the Railway, and will purchase direct in Bombay from original hands. The origin of the Fair is, however, religious, and thousands congregate at the first full moon of our year for the worship of the Goddess Mahi. This custom will doubtless continue, and so long as people congregate together a Fair will be held, even though it should subside from its present importance and become a mere local mart for the interchange of produce and Goods.

30. I am happy to be able to inform you that only nine petty thefts occurred in the Fair. The total value of property stolen was Rupees 64-4-9. The property was in every case recovered, and in eight cases out of the nine the offenders were apprehended and punished.

31. No epidemic or sickness occurred in the Fair, nor was any loss sustained by fire.

32. The following table shows the gross receipts and disbursements of the Fair:—

Balance of last year					Rs.	3,281	5 2
Opium sold by Government	Rs.	108	13	10			
Fines	„	49	0	0			
Sale of stalls of absent owners.	„	900	8	0			
Stall tax at 3 annas per *hath* frontage	„	2,262	2	3		3,320	8 1

Brought forward	Rs.	3,320	8	1	3,231	5	2
Duty paid by venders of poisonous substances.....	„	166	7	8			
Postage receipts	„	238	11	0			
Postage stamps	„	310	0	0			
Receipt stamps.....	„	30	0	0			
Liquor venders' licenses.....	„	1,470	6	11			
Sale of Guard huts.....	„	3	8	0			
Fee from the sealer of weights..	„	105	5	2			
Stamps for Hoondees.....	„	1,809	7	0			
Balance of last year's amount expended for laying Bridge..	„	12	7	9			
					7,466	13	7
					10,748	2	9
Deduct sums not credited to the Mhyjee Fair..	Rs.				4,288	3	7
					6,459	15	2
Deduct Disbursements.							
Pay of Chowkeydars	Rs.	1,723	2	3			
Making Guard House.....	„	51	8	9			
Laying down bridge in 1863..	„	400	0	0			
Removing bridge in 1862.....	„	27	8	6			
Pay of 5 Nacka Carkoons for keeping returns of goods enter the Fair	„	223	15	9			
Stationery	„	50	5	6			
Potdar (assayer)	„	.....					
Public crier	„	0	11	0			
Repairing roads round Mhyjee Fair	„	97	8	9			
Watering trees about the Fair..	„	202	1	4			
Building Dhurrumsalla in the Fair	„	250	0	0			
Hire for conveying money and stamps	„	10	0	0			
Batta to Mamlutdar's Carkoons employed in Mhyjee Fair....	„	60	7	0			
Earth and water for bridge....	„	36	2	9	3,133	7	7

Brought forward.... ....Rs.	3,133	7	7		
Repairing Gotala and Purdharee Ghaut..... ..... „	1,000	0	0		
Lantern and oil for Guard Houses..... .... „	8	14	0		
Repairing Treasure Box.. ..... „	0	12	0		
				4,143	1	7
Balance in hand.....Rs				2,315	14	7

33. The Guard House sanctioned by Government has been commenced, and the Dhurumsalla was open to the public during the Fair under Report.

34. Of the balance in hand Rupees 2,315-14-7, I beg to recommend the following disbursements :—

To making road from Mhyjee to the Railway Station .....Rs.	1,000	0	0
Repairs to Kutcherry and Dhurumsalla and finishing Guard House..... ..... „	500	0	0
Bridge over Girna 1864 ..... „	200	0	0
Planting and watering trees ..... „	200	0	0
Repairs of roads leading to the Fair ..... „	200	0	0
Rupees ...	2,100	0	0

This will leave a balance in hand of Rupees 215-14-7.

35. The following is a table showing the amount of Goods brought for sale, and the amount remaining unsold at the end of the Fair.

Goods brought for sale.....Rs.	50,67,582
„ remaining unsold ..... „	1,25,905
Rupees ...	49,41,677

36. I have much pleasure in informing you of the assistance I received from all ranks under me, especially from Pandoorung Sudasew, Mamlutdar, and Mahadajee Anunt, Foujdar, of Lohara Talooka.

The details of the List of Goods abovementioned will be found in the Books of Pamplets for the year 1863-64.

RESOLUTION.—The Honorable the Governor in Council has read the report on the Mhyjee Fair for 1863 with much pleasure, and entirely concurs with the Police Commissioner, N. D., in considering the fair to have been successful, and in attributing the total absence of any serious offence against person or property to the judicious disposition made by Lieutenant Daniell of the Military and Police Force at his disposal.

2. The value of business transacted has been estimated at Rs. 49,41,677. This sum exceeds by more than 3½ Lacs of Rupees the value of the business of last year, which again as shown by the report for that year was 11½ Lacs of Rupees above the average of the preceding 20 years. The increase in the value of the general business, as in the case of Cotton, is no doubt to be attributed to a rise in prices, and not to an increase in the amount of business. But though the amount of business does not appear to compare as favorably with that of former years as is supposed by Mr Ellis, yet the Governor in Council is happy to observe that the transactions of 1863 are not behind those of 1862; and he sees no reason to apprehend, with the Magistrate of Khandeish and Lieutenant Daniell, that the business of the Fair will fall off when Railway communication is opened over the Thull Ghaut. It is not impossible that the opening of the Railway over the Ghaut will increase rather than diminish the importance of the Fair.

3. The Honorable the Governor in Council has read with much interest Lieutenant Daniell's remarks on the business in Cotton and Cotton Goods. His Excellency in Council is gratified also to find a fresh proof of the continued prosperity of the agricultural class in the fact that in the metal Bazar there has been an increase of Rupees 32,000 over the business of last year, or of 53,000 over that of 1861. The increase is chiefly in Copper, Brass and the commonest sort of Iron, and though ascribed by Lieutenant Daniell "to this year being (according to the Shastras) a very favourable year for marriage among the Hindoos," may more probably, the Governor in Council thinks, be accounted for by the consideration that the circumstances of cultivators have generally improved in a marked degree during the past year, in consequence of the increased value of Cotton and Grain.

4 It is to be feared, however, from the remarks made by the Magistrate of Khandeish that the data on which the estimates of business have been framed are not of the most satisfactory and trustworthy character. It is indeed impossible that five Carkoons stationed at the entrances of the Fair can correctly record the amount and value of the contents of all carts coming to the Fair. It is again not likely that any valuable information could be obtained in regard to transactions in Cotton, Exchange and Hoondies without a very objectionable interference in private affairs. But though His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets that the returns of business transacted can only be regarded as approximations of the real amounts, yet he is not disposed to dispense altogether with the services of the statistical Carkoons. If the services of these Carkoons were to be dispensed with, it is not clear by what Agency statistics of the business transacted at the Fair could be collected, and His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with Mr. Ellis in thinking that it would be better to have returns which give approximately only the amount of business transacted, than to have no returns at all. Mr. Ellis has pointed out besides that there are special funds available for the repair of the road from the Railway Station to the Fair, and that there is no necessity, therefore, for interfering with the grant for the salaries of the statistical Carkoons. The proper remedy for the existing unsatisfactory state of the statistical returns is evidently to adopt some better plan for obtaining statistics, and the Collector should therefore, as suggested by the Police Commissioner, devise in consultation with the leading traders who attend the Fair some new plan for effecting this purpose.

5. The Honorable the Governor in Council trusts that the road from the Railway Station alluded to in the 25th paragraph of Lieutenant Daniell's report will be ready before the opening of the Fair in 1864. The proposal made in paragraph 26 to open the Railway Station a fortnight before the Fair begins has been more than anticipated, as it has been determined to have a permanent Station at Mhyjee.

6. The arrangements made by Mr. Ellis with Cullianjee Sewjee will, it is hoped, prevent the robberies on the Railway Line especially at the break between Kussara and Egutpoora, that have tended so much to shake the confidence of Native traders at the Fair.

7. From paragraph 32 of Lieutenant Daniell's report it appears

that the balance to the credit of the Fair fund at the beginning of the year was Rupees 3,281-5-2. The collections on account of the fund amounted to Rupees 3,177-10-0, and the expenses were Rupees 4,144-0-7. There was a balance, therefore, at the close of the Fair of Rupees 2,314-14-7. The cost of the local improvements proposed to be provided for from this fund is fairly debitable to the fund. The several works appear to the Governor in Council to be useful, and His Excellency approves of the orders given by Mr. Ellis for their being begun after the rains. It will be convenient, as suggested by Mr. Ellis, to separate in future returns the collections on account of Government from those on account of the fund, and it will be desirable to furnish some information in regard to some of the items of the Government collections, for instance those from the sale of opium and poisonous substances.

3. This correspondence should be placed in the Editors' Room, and a copy of it should also be sent to the Chamber of Commerce, with a request that they will favor Government with any remarks on the Fair which may occur to them.

FORWARDED for the information and guidance of the Commissioner of Police, Northern Division, and to the Railway Department with reference to paragraph 5 of the Resolution.

(Signed) H. BIRDWOOD,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Bombay Castle, 29th January, 1864.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) H. BIRDWOOD,
Under-Secretary to Government.

Funds of the Chamber, for 1863-64.

Disbursements.				Receipts.			
Rent	Rs.	1,980	0 0	Balance from last year	Rs.	1,182	10 1
Printing	„	1,355	0 0	Since paid in	„	977	8 0
Advertisements	„	190	1 0	Subscriptions	„	12,526	0 0
Newspapers	„	126	4 0	Sale of Manifests and Trade Returns	„	3,462	4 0
Books purchased	„	70	0 0	Sale of Reports, Tonnage Scales, &c.	„	17	8 0
Electric Telegraph Messages	„	1,455	2 0	Realised from the Calcutta Chamber for E. T. Messages	„	431	11 0
Ditto do. for Madras, Kurrachee and Point deGalle	„	845	8 0	Realised from Madras Chamber for E. T. Messages	„	101	2 0
Distributing Dharwar grown American seed	„	179	15 7	Realised from Kurrachee Chamber for E. T. Messages	„	101	2 0
Stationery	„	154	4 0	Interest allowed by the Treasurers	„	40	9 10
Postage Stamps	„	85	12 0				
Office Salaries and Petty charges		4,103	2 0				
Manifests and Trade Returns Salary, &c. Rs. 2,493 10 9 Printing „ 3,161 4 0	„	5,654	14 9				
Commission charged by Treasurers	„	176	2 9				
Balance	„	2,464	4 10				
	Rupees	18,840	6 11		Rupees	18,840	6 11
				Balance in hands of Treasurers 1st September	Rs.	2,464	4 10
				Since paid in	„	1,248	8 0
					Rupees	3,712	12 10

LIST OF PAMPHLETS AND PAPERS received by the Chamber of Commerce, during the year 1863-64.

No.	TITLES.	Received from
1	Principal Exports from Bushire to Bombay, during 1863-64, ..	Bombay Government
2	New Zealand, Exhibition, Report of	New Zealand Government
3	British India Association, Reports of	Association
4	Peshawar, Custom's duties on	Punjaub Government
5	Zanzibar, Administration Report of	Bombay Government
6	Dharwar, Cotton Gins Manufactured, Report of	Do.
7	Avoiding Wager's Bill, Committees Report on	Do.
8	Gold Currency into India, Minutes on, by His Excellency Lieut. General Sir W. Mansfield, K.C.B.	Do.
9	Trade and Resources of the N. W. Boundary, Report on ..	Mr. Davies
10	Elphinstone Land and Press Company's, Landing Tonnage, &c. ..	Government
11	Customs' Revenue's Report for 1863-64	Do.
12	Scinde, External Trade Report for 1863-64	Do.
13	Salt Administration, Report of	Do.
14	Administration of the N. W. Provinces, Report on the ..	Do.
15	Do. Madras Presidency, for 1862-63 ..	Do.
16	Annual Report of the Marine Department of the Government of India	Do.
17	Customs' Annual Report	Commissioner
18	Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Report of	Calcutta Chamber
19	Calcutta Commercial Cases, from 1851-60	Charles Sanderson, Esq
20	Punjaub Exhibition for the year 1864	Punjaub Government

21	Agri-Horticultural of Western India, Report of	Bombay Government
22	Dekhan, Rain-fall, Report of	Do.
23	Papers relating to the Project of connecting Barsee with the Barsee Railway Station by Tramways	Do.
24	Papers relating to the Colonization of Mander Deo	Do.
25	Bordeaux Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Bordeaux Chamber
26	Marseilles Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Marseilles Chamber
27	Kurrachee Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Kurrachee Chamber
28	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Liverpool Chamber
29	Cotton Supply Association, Annual Report of	Cotton Supply Association
30	Agri-Horticultural Society of Western India, Annual Report of ..	George Birdwood, Esq.
31	Godavery Irrigation and Navigation, Minute on by Sir C. E. Trevelyan, K.C.B.	Author
32	South Australian Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of ..	South Australian Chamber
33	The Indian Currency, a review on the	Author
34	Commercial Sea Service, Letters on the	Do.
35	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Half-yearly General Meeting, Report of	Liverpool Chamber
36	Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Manchester Chamber
37	Madras Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Madras Chamber
38	Calcutta and other Indian Ports, health of Seamen, Report of ..	Norman Chevers, M. D.
39	Sugar Duties, Report on	Henry Nelson, Esq.
40	Indian Paper Currency, Suggestions on the	Author
41	Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Annual Report of	Glasgow Chamber
42	Agricultural and Horticultural Society of India	Author

00133534

Digitized with financial assistance from
Government of Maharashtra
on 01 February, 2020